

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Did you take part in last weekend's 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Hail to Hammock

Apologies to the hammock. It always seemed an object of indolence. Au contraire.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...

Page 10



Toad Venom

Health officials are warning New Yorkers to stay away from an illegal aphrodisiac after the product killed a man.

NATION...Page 17



Madonna Auction

The Material Girl parted with a few personal possessions at a benefit to raise money for AIDS research.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 23

Keanah Deleon Guerrero tops KES graduation. PAGE 2
Two local boys scouts complete Eagle projects. PAGE 3

Gas prices up again, diesel nears \$6 mark

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With crude oil prices spiking at \$129.07 a barrel, Shell Marianas Inc. again adjusted its prices on Saipan Friday night, with diesel now fast approaching the \$6 mark and gasoline creeping into the \$5 a gallon level.

RELATED NEWS

What makes up the price of gas? PAGE 19

SELF SERVICE	
Regular	\$4.569 a gallon
Premium	\$4.719 a gallon
FULL SERVICE	
Regular	\$4.699 a gallon
Premium	\$4.839 a gallon
Diesel	\$5.479 a gallon

See GAS on Page 4

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Shell increased its prices for regular gasoline by 12 cents a gallon, premium gas by 31 cents, and diesel by 36 cents.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A gasoline attendant fills up a container with gas at a Shell service station in Gualo Rai along Middle Road in this file photo.



BLUE-RIBBON COW

A cow owned by Jack Deleon Guerrero looks at the camera after winning first place in the best local cow category for the animal competition during the 27th annual Saipan Agriculture Fair at the Sabalu Market in Susupe Saturday morning.

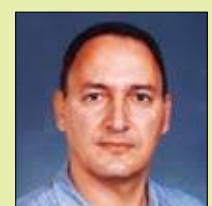
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ON \$6.1M OWED ALIEN WORKERS

Benedetto: Labor was unwilling to assure workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto refused to turn over to the Department of Labor his office's documents regarding the \$6.1 million owed to hundreds of alien workers because Labor could provide no assurances that the data would not be used against guest workers.



In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, Benedetto said he was willing to turn over the documents to Labor if he had assurances that the records would be used to go after the employers and bonding companies who owed the money, and not the workers.

"Labor was unwilling to give such assurances," he said.

See NO on Page 4

China quake deaths rise above 60,000

By TINI TRAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

YINGXIU, China (AP)—China's earthquake death toll has passed 60,000 and could rise to 80,000 or more, Premier Wen Jiabao said Saturday as he and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited the disaster area.

Wen's estimate was a sharp increase over the 55,740 deaths reported earlier by the government in the May 12 quake.

"The fatalities are over 60,000," Wen said. "It may further climb to a level of 70,000, 80,000 or more."

RELATED NEWS
■ Quake mutes protests of Beijing Olympics. PAGE 18
■ Ban checks on quake relief efforts. PAGE 18

See SHARP on Page 4

Around the CNMI

Keanah Deleon Guerrero tops KES graduation

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie.delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Keanah Deleon Guerrero was awarded Valedictorian honors, while Allysha Hillary S. Lloren took home the Salutatorian award during the promotion ceremony for the 38 sixth grade students of Koblerville Elementary School on Friday. Deleon Guerrero also received the Commissioner's Award while Lloren got the Principal's Award.

"It's been a bumpy road filled with defeats, victories and surprises. It's true that throughout our collective education experience, time spent with teachers, coaches, and other students, building an athletic team, organizing STUCO, spelling bees, math courts and Mathcounts are unforgettable," said Deleon Guerrero.



JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

The 38 sixth grade students of Koblerville Elementary School during Friday's promotion ceremony.

"What we've accomplished over our brief years at KES cannot always be measured by grade point average, it cannot be entirely conveyed with a transcript, and it cannot be summarized in a diploma.

We've received quality education from the classroom, and education in life from each other," she added.

She expressed gratitude to members of her families, teachers and friends "for all



**KEANAH DELEON
GUERRERO**
Valedictorian
Commissioner's Award



**ALLYSHA HILLARY
S. LLOREN**
Salutatorian
Principal's Award

to Keanah Deleon Guerrero, Gianna Celin S. Babauta s, and Jesus Ramon Mafnas.

The Science awards were given out to Keanah Deleon Guerrero, Gianna Celin S. Babauta, and Roxanne Mae C. Camacho.

For Social Studies, the awardees were, again, Keanah Deleon Guerrero and Allysha Hillary S. Lloren, Gianna Celin S. Babauta, and Roxanne Mae C. Camacho.

For Reading, Keanah Deleon Guerrero, Gianna Celin S. Babauta, and Roxanne Mae C. Camacho got the awards.

For Writing, awards were given to Allysha Hillary S. Lloren, Gianna Celin S. Babauta, and Roxanne Mae C. Camacho.

The KES athlete of the year in the male division is Richard Phillip, and female division is Stevielyn Muna.

your support, understanding, and inspiration."

From highest to lowest order, the top five students are Keanah G. Deleon Guerrero, Allysha Hillary S. Lloren, John Paul P. Lim, Christine M. Alcazar and

Grace L. Magalang. Also, subject awards were given to each student for doing an excellent job in Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading, and Writing.

For Math, awards were given

Sister Remedios graduates 32



By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-two children received their diplomas during the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center's graduation ceremony held Thursday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Sister Remedios gave three major awards and recognition to students for excellent performances during the past school year: the Excellence Award, Citizenship Award and Educational Achievement Award. All of this year's students were given awards.

William C. Deleon Guerrero, a recipient of the Excellence Award and Citizenship Award, said that he played, learned and



PHOTO COURTESY OF LMJ PHOTO SHOP

Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center's class of 2008 students take center stage during their graduation ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday.

loved while at school.

"Now we can count our numbers and read our words and sing our songs. You made us smart. You made us good. We hope we make you proud," the six-year-old said in a speech.

Six-year-old Frantia Sablan also gave her own special remarks. She said at Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, she and her fellow kindergartners "learned how to be great readers, creative writers, awesome spellers, and re-

markable mathematicians."

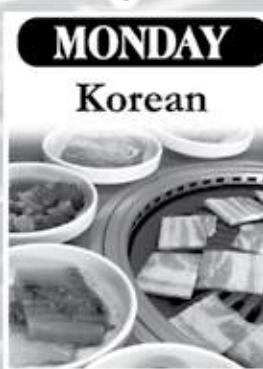
"I'm glad to have attended school here and I could not have done it without my parents and teachers," Sablan said.

The graduates wowed their parents and everyone in attendance with their rendition of

their 2008 class song and were treated to a surprise musical number from the pre-kindergartners and nursery.

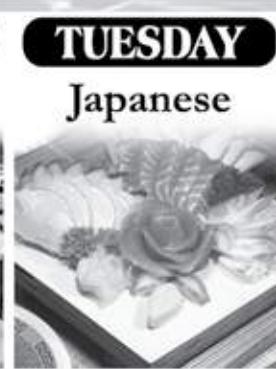
Sr. Martha Ramarui said the ceremony showed how much "little children can do and how beautifully they do it."

Special Theme Lunch!



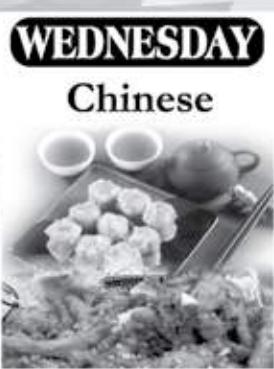
MONDAY

Korean



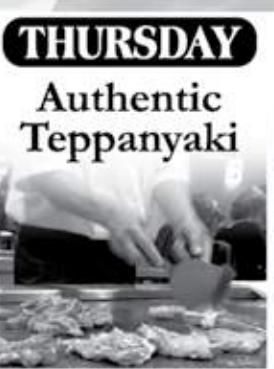
TUESDAY

Japanese



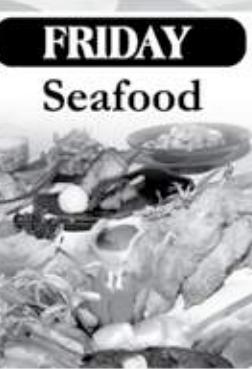
WEDNESDAY

Chinese



THURSDAY

Authentic
Teppanyaki



FRIDAY

Seafood



***SATURDAY**

Family



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Two local Boy Scouts complete Eagle projects

Two local Boy Scouts are organizing a community effort to beautify and improve San Vicente Elementary School Monday, as they finish off their Eagle Projects.

Arthur Welch, 16, and Skylar Brown, 17, have organized dozens of volunteers to help them complete their Eagle Projects

and finish off a large improvement project at San Vicente Elementary School. Volunteers are meeting at the school at 8am Monday, and will likely work until noon.

Welch and Brown have been involved with the Boy Scouts since they were 11. They are now on the verge of attaining

US House passes measure strengthening oversight of Guam military buildup

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday passed H.R. 5658, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009” by a vote of 384 to 23. The bill authorizes defense spending and policy for 2009, and contains several provisions sponsored by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo that will strengthen congressional oversight and accountability of the ongoing military buildup in Guam.

“This military buildup and the realignment of military forces to Guam is very important for our community and our nation. Its success will require very close cooperation between federal agencies and GovGuam, and Congress supports strengthening this partnership,” Bordallo said. “For this reason, I worked with my colleagues in the House Armed Services Committee to include provisions in the bill this year to establish a framework for appropriate congressional oversight and accountability for the military buildup process.”

The bill authorizes \$531.4 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and national security programs within the Department of Energy. It also authorizes an additional \$70 billion for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It reflects a commitment from the Congress to provide servicemembers with substantial investment and policies to enhance their readiness. In particular, the bill authorizes an additional \$800 million for equipment for the National Guard. The bill also provides men and women in uniform with a 3.9 percent pay raise, which is .5 percent more than requested by the President, and includes provisions strengthening TRICARE and supporting military families.

The bill also contains many provisions of significant importance to Guam. Some of the provisions will enable greater federal assistance to Guam as the community prepares to improve critical infrastructure in support of the buildup.

During debate on the bill, the House of Representatives considered and passed by voice vote an amendment offered by Bordallo that authorizes the Maritime Administration under the

their Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting.

Welch is finishing off the last phase of his Eagle Project Monday. During the first phase of his project, Welch, with the help of CUC, organized an effort to trim a number of flame trees at San Vicente Elementary School, which were falling over due to decay. After the trees were trimmed, Welch organized a number of scouts and community members to haul off the thousands of pounds of branches that were cut down.

On Monday, Welch plans to erect a barrier to block off cars from driving around blind turns where children often play at the school. He also plans to

lay cement over an erosion hazard in order to prevent future erosion and make the area safer for children.

So far, Welch estimates he has spent about 40 hours on his project.

“It has been a lot of hard work, but its fun to do hard work,” Welch said. “I’ve learned skills like wood hauling, leadership, and how to follow up.”

Meanwhile, Brown is working to improve the San Vicente Agriculture Science Project. Brown has spent nearly 15 of his Saturdays refurbishing an old water tank, which held tilapia fish before it was damaged by a typhoon.

Brown organized an effort to drain the tank, clean it, and

remove the old pipe. He then scraped off the old paint and painted the exterior. Brown put in a significant amount of time learning how to restore the tank.

So far, Brown estimates he has spent nearly 70 hours on his project.

“I wanted to help out the science instruction at the school,” Brown said. “I felt this would impact the school not just temporarily but for a long time. Its impact would last.”

Welch and Brown are both members of Troop 913, which is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“I could not be prouder of these scouts,” said Eric Nelson, Troop 913 Scoutmaster. “They

have put in countless hours researching their projects, organizing volunteers, and carrying out their plans in order to improve the community. There aren’t a lot of adults who can carry out projects of this magnitude, let alone two high school students. These two scouts are wonderful examples for all of us.”

Assistant Scoutmaster Val Welch played a large role in the projects and helped both boys organize and implement their plans.

Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. (PR)

Dean Manglona graduates from UNM law school

Dean A. Manglona, of Rota, received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law at the commencement exercises held May 17, 2008 in Albuquerque, NM.

Manglona received his bachelor’s in Accounting from Marquette University in 2005, graduated from Guam’s Fr. Dueñas Memorial School in 2001 and attended Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja School on Rota.

In law school, he served as an editor of the Natural Resources Journal. He also worked as a summer law intern at the Guam Supreme Court.

Manglona will be working at the Law Offices of Sanchez, Mowrer & Desiderio in Albuquerque.

He is the son of Vincent and Benita Manglona. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dean A. Manglona is shown with some family members at his graduation. From left to right, his father, Vincent, mother Benita, and sisters Priscilla and Bernadita.

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Judge denies deportation of tourist on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied the government's petition to deport an alleged overstaying Japanese tourist who had gone to Rota for the burial of his father.

In his order issued Friday—a day before his resignation from the bench—Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama ruled that until the government provides the court with a written brief detailing the specifics of its position, the court will not grant the petition

to deport Yoichi Kagawa.

Lizama pointed out that Kagawa had a parent that resided in the CNMI prior to and after the cut off date to be deemed a person of Northern Marianas descent.

The judge noted that as the legitimate son of such a person, Kagawa may be entitled to apply for his own citizenship.

"If this is true, then he may very likely not be able to be deported as he has a legitimate right to be present in the CNMI," Lizama said.

According to court records, Kagawa's father had lived on

Rota earlier in his life, including prior to the Trust Territory citizenship cutoff date of 1950.

Kagawa's father left the CNMI for Japan. Kagawa was born in Japan and has Japanese citizenship and a passport.

In May 2006, Kagawa's father passed away on Rota. The respondent (Kagawa) entered the CNMI under a tourist entry permit in order to bury his father on May 14, 2006.

According to the government, represented by chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch, the respondent was allowed to extend his visa to that of long term tourist per-

mit on June 6, 2006.

These two permits allowed the respondent to remain in the CNMI for a total of 90 days. Kagawa has not filed an application for employment nor been granted temporary work authorization.

In February 2007, the government advised the Japanese tourist to leave the CNMI before March 5, 2007, to avoid deportation proceedings.

Kagawa has also failed to register under the alien registration requirement and has overstayed his tourist visa by an extended period of time.

In his order, Lizama said he does not contest these assertions by the government.

"The court, however, has doubts regarding whether the immigration rules may be applicable to this particular person," the judge said.

"Since the government seeks the respondent's deportation so strenuously, the court does not think it an unfair burden to require a written brief regarding the respondent's legal status under the Trust Territory cutoff date rules," Lizama said.

He cited that any person who was present at that time was

considered grandfathered in as people of Northern Marianas descent, regardless if they subsequently left the CNMI.

"Therefore at this time the court will deny the petition that seeks deportation until such time that the government provides the court with a written brief that details the application of the Covenant and the proposed legal status of respondent," Lizama said.

He added that the court by operation of law must give Kagawa the benefit of the doubt in this situation based on his assertions.

Norita: Hiring civilian dispatchers will deploy more cops in the field

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio Norita underscored the importance of hiring five civilian dispatchers in order to relieve officers of that job and focus them on police work.

"Right now we are using cops because there is no civilian dispatcher," Norita said in an interview with Saipan Tribune.

Dispatchers are the ones

who answer 911 emergency calls at DPS.

The commissioner said that, by having civilian dispatchers, the department could have police officers work in the field.

DPS previously had civilian dispatchers who have since quit and never been replaced.

Norita said more police officers are needed to work in the field as the department will experience manpower drain with the eventual deployment of officers and firefighters to the

Middle East on July 15, 2008.

DPS is hiring 20 police officers, 16 firefighters, and five dispatchers in preparation for the deployment of its police and fire personnel to the Middle East.

Norita earlier disclosed that Gov. Benigno Fitial had just signed the certification for the hiring of the 41 personnel because of the emergency deployment.

Hopefully by mid-June 2008, DPS can start with the police and firefighters academy and

have the graduation in mid-August 2008, Norita said.

He underscored the need to immediately begin the academy as 32 police officers and firefighters are expected to leave.

"That is the reason why they're authorizing me to hire these cadets so I can cover the vacancies," the commissioner said.

DPS personnel who have received the Army Reserve's call to active duty represents nearly 20 percent of the police and fire workforce on Saipan.

Co-op program still going strong after 37 years

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Cooperative Education and Program of the Marianas High School, which is still going strong after 37 years, held a Mentor Appreciation Luncheon on May 16 at the Minatchom Attdao pavilion across the school campus.

"Students prepared a delicious lunch and awarded their mentors with a certificate of appreciation," said Cooperative

Education & Training instructor/coordinator Tyce Mister.

Started in 1971, Cooperative Education and Program, sometimes referred to as "co-op," is designed to help prepare 12th grade students for work.

The program consists of both Cooperative Education, which occurs on campus, and Cooperative Training, which occurs off campus. In the Cooperative Education class, students participate in completing resumes, applications,

interviews, personal development, related field trips and other projects. In Cooperative Training, students gain work experience by participating as a "trainee" at an off campus business organization.

The training hours are generally during the afternoon school hours from 2pm to 4pm. However, there is some schedule flexibility. Students will be required to sign and be responsible for this "Training Agreement" that sets forth the

requirements

Former co-op student Nathaniel Mateo, 17, started raw when he worked at Hyatt Regency in August 2007 as a trainee. "Co-op is the bomb; it's very helpful. It helped me find a job and be prepared for the future," said Mateo. He is now a full-time employee at the hotel as a bellhop.

The next career fair for Co-Op will be on Sept. 19, 2008. For more information, contact Tyce Mister at 237-3248.

No assurances that data won't be used vs workers'

From Page 1

Under the circumstances, the federal ombudsman said, he is not comfortable sharing those records unless each worker gives his or her consent.

Labor and the Federal Ombudsman's Office have failed to reach an agreement on how to deal with the reported \$6.1 million owed to guest workers.

Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat recently disclosed that Labor has not been successful in reaching with Benedetto a mutually satisfactory way of dealing with unpaid administrative orders.

In her interim progress report on the implementation of Public Law 15-108 or the new reform labor law, Kaipat blamed Benedetto, who according to her, continues to refuse to provide them with such Labor adminis-

trative orders and sworn statements that he has collected from alien workers.

"He [Benedetto] insists that the department do this work all over again. For that reason, the department will shortly implement its own program without participation by the ombudsman," said the former lawmaker in the report that she submitted to the 16th Legislature.

In his response to the issue, Benedetto it was always his plan to work with Labor to identify solvent employers and help them assist the workers collect any money that might be available.

The federal ombudsman said he and Labor director Barry Hirshbein have had discussions on how to do this.

He said the sticking point over sharing the records has been how the workers' informa-

tion would be used.

Benedetto said he is still hopeful that his office and Labor can work together on the unpaid awards.

"I plan to revisit the issue with Labor when I get back to Saipan," said Benedetto, who is currently in Washington D.C. to meet with various federal agencies on how to implement the federalization of the CNMI's immigration system.

He said his office is still in the process of determining how best to help the workers collect their money. The ombudsman admitted he does not know yet what form that help will take.

Benedetto said there are now about 800 unpaid administrative orders that they have collected from the workers, and that "a few more trickle in each day."

"Our options are some sort of cooperative effort with the

Department of Labor, helping workers file individual actions, or perhaps some sort of legal action on their behalf," he added.

In February 2008, Benedetto told the media that his office has already collected 712 Labor administrative orders and judgments that awarded a total of \$6.1 million in unpaid wages and other damages to alien workers but remain uncollected.

Benedetto then stated that he will share the data with the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Congress.

In her interim progress report, Kaipat said the Superior Court is in a much better position than Labor to secure administrative orders' payment.

She said Labor has changed its policies and practices with respect to collection of unpaid administrative orders.

The announcement came as experts searched for 15 radiation sources buried in the rubble and survivors moved out of possible danger areas downstream from rivers dammed by landslides.

With their waters pooling, the blocked rivers could breach the earthen barriers, a danger that would grow with coming rains or aftershocks.

Relief workers were grappling with getting tents, food and medical care to the displaced. Wen said the government needs 900,000 tents and it is urging Chinese manufacturers to make 30,000 a day.

The Environmental Protection Ministry said experts from its National Nuclear Safety Administration were trying to contain 15 unspecified "sources" of radiation.

Some 50 potential radiation sources were buried by the quake, Environment Vice Minister Wu Xiaoqing said Friday in Beijing. While 35 have been secured, 15 remained buried un-

der buildings and houses and, though located, were inaccessible, he said.

Wu said the radiation was not leaking. But the number of unsecured sources was far higher than the two the agency reported earlier this week. China has said all nuclear facilities are safe - an assurance Wu repeated - and foreign experts have said the unsecured sources were likely materials used by hospitals and factories or for research.

The search for radiation sources and the evacuation of flood-threatened communities showed how precarious the situation remained nearly two weeks after the quake.

Even as it battled to bring relief to the devastated areas of Sichuan, the government was shifting focus to long-term reconstruction and away from the search for survivors and bodies among the wreckage.

Ban, the U.N. chief, promised help with reconstruction and said the world body was waiting for China's assessment of what it needed.

Ex-Rep. Ogo defends local shareholder of 2 Rota fishing firms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Rota representative Crispin Ogo has defended a local shareholder of two fishing companies who, with his wife, were subjected to a temporary restraining order that prevented them from contacting or attacking the new majority shareholder of the corporations.

Ogo told *Saipan Tribune* that Glenn Hocog Manglona is the acting president of Rota-based Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc. and not the reported majority shareholder, Rockford Lee Zietzke.

The former president of the two companies, Courtney Zietzke, who is the brother of Rockford Lee Zietzke, resigned as president of the corporations effective May 10, 2008, said Ogo.



Ogo

The former lawmaker is the current operations manager of the two corporations.

He explained that because of the resignation, Manglona became the acting president, considering that no corporate meeting has been held.

"There's never been any meeting called for the transfer or to at least call who will be the acting president of the companies," Ogo noted.

At the same time, he said, a provision of the corporate by-laws specifically states that before any transfer of shares there shall be a regular or a specific meeting for that reason.

"And that never happened," he said. "In my view, the entire issue here is basically an illegal transfer," Ogo emphasized.

Ogo refused to comment on the threat issue.

In issuing the TRO, associate judge David A. Wiseman directed Manglona and his wife Elizabeth to stay at least 100 yards from the offices, equipment and documents of Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc., both located in Songsong, Rota, and to keep the same distance from the residence of Rockford Lee Zietzke.

Wiseman also ordered the Manglona couple to stay at least 100 yards away from the plant, equipment, and fishing vessels owned by the Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc., located near the airport on Rota.

According to court documents, Glenn Manglona is cur-

rently listed as the registered agent, director and the vice-president/secretary of both corporations. Elizabeth Manglona is listed as a minority shareholder of the corporations.

Wiseman said the TRO shall expire at the date of the hearing on May 27, 2008, unless extended by the court.

The Manglonas have been summoned to appear at the hearing to provide any legal reason why the injunction and TRO should not be granted.

Zietske, Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc., through counsel F.

Matthew Smith, sought the injunction and TRO against the Manglona couple.

Smith said that on May 12, 2008, Courtney Zietzke, the president and majority shareholder of the corporations, resigned and assigned all of his

shares and interests in the corporations to Rockford Lee Zietzke.

On that same day, and in accordance with the laws and by-laws of the corporations, Rockford, as the 81 percent and 65 percent owner, noticed a meeting of the shareholders of each corporation for May 24, 2008 at 1pm and personally delivered a copy of the notice to the Manglonas on May 14, 2008, at 5:15pm at the Saipan Airport.

After receiving a majority interest in the corporations, Zietzke went to Rota to secure the plant and office of the corporations. New locks were installed.

While on Rota, Glenn Manglona failed to meet the majority owner as scheduled.

Smith said that Glenn Manglona instead attempted to interfere in the securing of the corporations assets by calling his friends on Rota to stop Zietzke from entering the corporations' office.

On May 14, 2008, after returning to Saipan, Zietzke allegedly received an anonymous call from Rota and was told that Glenn Manglona was going to break in and destroy the corporations' records and property.

Smith said that shortly after receiving the anonymous phone call at 10:30pm, Zietzke called Glenn Manglona.

The lawyer said that Glenn Manglona stated that he was going to knock the locks off that Zietzke had installed and that Glenn would break into the plant.

Smith said that Glenn Manglona also threatened to do bodily harm to the majority owner.

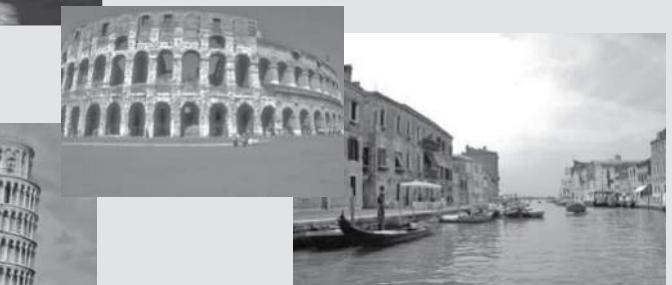


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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Presumption of evil

Texas' top prosecutors and child services directors should have read their Arthur Miller before tearing hundreds of children from their mothers who belonged to a polygamist sect. In "The Crucible," the playwright's allegorical take on McCarthyism, a hysterical teen in Salem, Mass., sparks the infamous witch hunt as the adults around her give deadly vent to their own fears. With the sanctimonious certitude of Miller's Judge Danforth, Texas officials assumed mass evil among the residents of the Yearning for Zion ranch and acted accordingly. Fortunately, the parents got a more impartial appellate court panel, which ruled Thursday that the state had overstepped its authority.

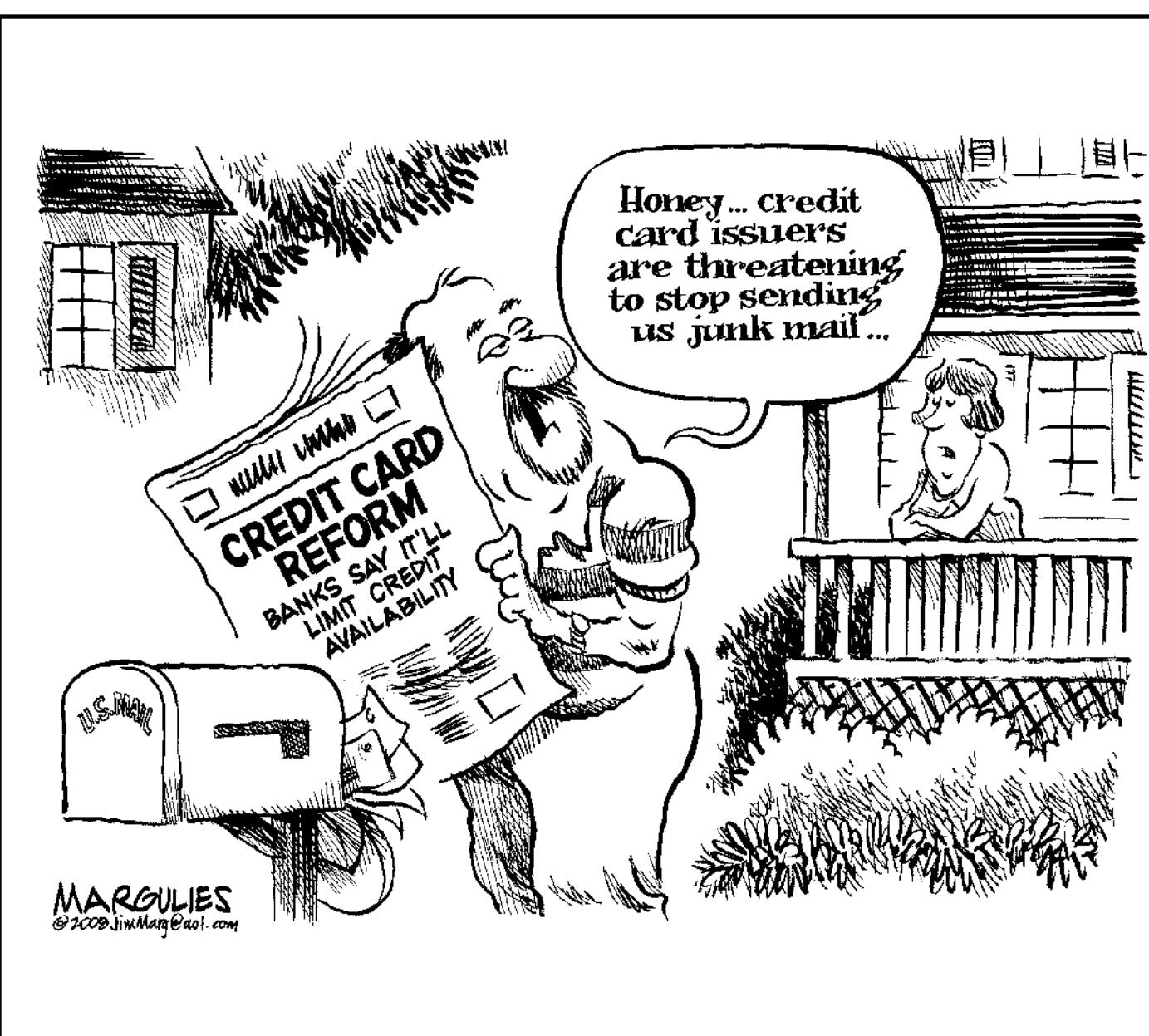
As in the play, a single accusation—purportedly by a teenage girl named Sarah who calls in to a crisis line saying she had been abused and forced to marry—led officials to separate more than 450 children from their families with no evidence that they had been mistreated. Children who had grown up in a societal cocoon, without television, junk food or baggy jeans, were scattered among foster homes, some hundreds of miles from their parents.

After a while, the search for Sarah seemed more an excuse than a reason. Investigators never found her, and eventually the arrest warrant against her alleged abuser was withdrawn. But look, investigators said, they were finding underage mothers, evidence in their eyes of molestation and forced marriage. The child of one new mother was taken from her after birth. Within days, though, it turned out the mother was an adult—as were at least 14 others of the 31 who had been labeled minors.

Many of us find these people odd, their customs baffling. But the eagerness to brand the sect as abusers and molesters rang more of religious bias than of concern for the children. The breathless announcements about pregnant minors seemed naive at best when American cities are filled with teen mothers. It's not something to celebrate, but neither do we take their children away without cause or regularly charge their sexual partners with crimes.

Yearning for Zion members are followers of Warren Jeffs, who was convicted last year in Utah of being an accomplice to rape after he forced a 14-year-old girl to marry. There was, and is, reason for concern, especially in the cases of a few teenage girls who might have been married illegally. But Texas authorities painted the whole sect with the same brush, arguing in court that the entire ranch should be considered a single household. The appeals court judges who ruled unanimously in the parents' favor saw through that fallacy. The state has 10 days to appeal, but it would be better off conceding that, like the self-righteous accusers in Miller's Salem, it was overzealous in its efforts to root out presumed evils.

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US deserves credit for military role of disaster assistance

By LAWRENCE KORB and MAX BERGMANN
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

Quietly, and perhaps without fully realizing it, the U.S. military has begun embracing a new, wide-ranging international role that will compel it to intervene in many countries. Yet this is a role that virtually every country would support and one that should be widely embraced here as well: the role of global first-responder.

The Myanmar military government's shocking and disastrous refusal of international assistance in the wake of the recent devastating cyclone has masked one broader positive development—the surprising speed at which aid, especially on the part of the United States, was offered. In contrast to the initially hesitant U.S. response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami (characterized as "stingy" by U.N. Undersecretary-General Jan England), this time, first lady Laura Bush set a decisive tone, saying that the United States was prepared to send assistance immediately. This willingness reflects not just a good-natured desire to help but also a realization that dealing with international disasters has become a national security priority.

In some ways, this is an odd development. Responding to natural disasters has never been a core mission of the U.S. military. It rarely drives procurement decisions or strategic thinking, and responses to disaster situations have tended to be ad hoc. Yet this is changing. As the Center for Naval Analysis concluded, "Climate change threatens to add new hostile and stressing factors." As large-scale disasters grow more common, so too will U.S. military involvement in these types of missions.

The eventual U.S. response to the Indian Ocean tsunami was pivotal. After the tsunami, 15,000 troops, a carrier task force and a Marine expeditionary force deployed to the region, with the U.S. Navy effectively setting up a "sea base" off the coast of Indonesia. This flotilla of ships enabled supplies to be transported to the coastline, where ports and roads were all but washed away. As the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Adm. Mike Mullen, commented, "We literally built a city at sea for no other purpose than to serve the needs of other people." Only the U.S. military had the ability to conduct such an operation.

Indonesia still is a long way from completely recovering, but the American response made a tremendous difference. And U.S. assistance did not go unnoticed. A Pew Survey found that 80 percent of the citizens of the world's largest Muslim-majority country had a

more favorable opinion of the United States after its response.

What worked abroad was also employed at home: In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Navy set up a base at sea in which to assist New Orleans. That same year, in the wake of a major earthquake in Pakistan, U.S. assistance was quickly sent, and Pakistani television showed American helicopters ferrying aid to remote mountainous villages and American medics helping the injured.

And in November, the man in charge of the military's response to Hurricane Katrina, Adm. Timothy Keating, now the head of U.S. Pacific Command, sent a Marine Expeditionary Unit to assist Bangladesh in its recovery from a devastating cyclone. Keating noted that he worked with the Bangladeshi government before the storm had even hit. The Navy is so pleased with its performance in these missions that it introduced recruiting commercials highlighting its role in disaster recovery.

Some might see the mantle of global first responder as a distraction from "hard" security concerns. But engaging in these operations promotes U.S. interests.

First, such missions act to maintain precious stability. After the 2004 tsunami, there was a real danger that chaos, even unrest, would spread beyond the disaster zones. Our response not only saved lives but also helped stabilize the area.

Second, it improves the image of the United States. Responding to disasters demonstrates the goodwill of the American people and can serve to improve our standing in world opinion, as it has in Indonesia. As Mullen explained, the tsunami intervention showed another side of "American power that wasn't perceived as frightening, monolithic or arrogant."

Third, such missions help cast U.S. global military posture in a better light. Countries will be more accepting of a U.S. military presence if they know that our military will be there to help if disaster strikes. Adopting this role also enables the United States to build closer relationships with countries, as in Bangladesh, where joint preparations avert an even worse disaster.

Finally, responding to natural disasters is the price of being the world's largest superpower. As the guarantor of global security, the United States is looked to not just for its ability to deter threats but also for its ability to help when countries are in need.

Korb, a former assistant secretary of defense, is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. Bergmann is the deputy policy director at the National Security Network.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Military buildup in Guam: Impact on civilian community, planning, and response

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the statement made by Northern Mariana Islands Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on May 1, 2008.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this statement on the military buildup on Guam, as a result of the upcoming transfer of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces from Okinawa.

The world is rapidly changing and countries that were once inconsequential to our national consciousness are now major players in the global economy. The nations comprising the Asian continent represent both partners and threats to our economy and to national security.

The transfer of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces from Okinawa to Guam is a relatively short move of about 1400 miles. However, this transfer should be seen as an opportunity for our entire nation to adjust its perceptions and assumptions. Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have for some time been viewed as insignificant insular possessions in the backwaters of the Pacific. This is an opportunity for these islands to be seen as America's face to Asia.

Right now that face, as far as the CNMI is concerned, is not an image this great nation wants the world to see, and I look forward to having many discussions with this committee on how things can be improved. For today I would like to focus on direct impacts of this upcoming transfer.

When the Marianas Political Status Commission was negotiating the Covenant, we agreed to 100 year leases for 17,800 acres of land on Tinian and the island of Farallon de Medinilla for \$983 and \$100 per acre, respectively. We agreed to these bargain basement prices on these long term leases because of the anticipation of a permanent military presence that would provide consistent economic activity that would form the basis of our economy. Unfortunately we were negotiating in a post-Vietnam era and military expansion turned out not to be a politically viable option. In other words, the proposed military project never became a reality and this valuable land on Tinian has never delivered the economic promise that we expected.

US lags and drags in science research

By ED MEYER
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

Three-hundred feet beneath France and Switzerland lies a machine that soon might wipe away the U.S. position as the world's leader in fundamental scientific research. The question is: Did that honor really belong to us in the first place?

This summer, a European scientific group will flip the switch on the Large Hadron Collider, the world's most powerful atom-smasher. Seventeen miles in circumference, it collides counter-rotating beams of protons and detects the showers of subatomic particles with precision detectors that are seven stories high.

The protons make 11,245 laps around the 17-mile beam tube each second. Although the proton beam has a mass of only one ten-thousandth the mass of a grain of sand, it is moving so close to the speed of light that it has the energy of a 30,000-pound fighter jet moving at 500 mph. The control of the proton beam is so precise that the tube through which it travels is less than 3 inches in diameter.

The instrument, if it works as expected, could arguably be considered a magnum opus of humanity, one of the crowning achievements of our species.

But wait—didn't the U.S. undertake a similar project in the not-too-distant past?

Yes. Construction on the world's most powerful atom-smasher began beneath the plains of Texas in 1991. The Superconducting

The U.S. still holds the lease, and I urge the Department of Defense to find a more constructive and permanent use of this land. I have strongly urged DOD to establish a permanent training facility on Tinian, and the CNMI would be open to other types of permanent installations. This request is nothing new. My predecessor, the Honorable CNMI Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta, made several requests to Congress and DOD to establish a continuous presence in Tinian in hopes of spurring economic activity (please see letter to Secretary Rumsfeld). The Tinian leadership has also made numerous similar appeals over the years. Yet, at the date of today's hearing, more than twenty-five years after the land acquisition agreement, practically nothing has been done leaving a full two-thirds of the island of Tinian to remain fallow. I believe that if DOD does not develop concrete plans for the use of their land on Tinian, Congress should declare these lands as "surplus property" and be returned to the CNMI.

It is encouraging hearing that studies for the entire region are being conducted and the feasibility of a "warm base" in Tinian is being proposed which would require the construction of temporary structures and ensuring some sort of military presence. However, the people of the CNMI deserve more concrete plans rather than mere concepts in order to properly plan and prepare. Also, while a recurring temporary presence by the military in Tinian would be helpful, a permanent presence would ensure sustained economic activity and validate the long-term lease agreement.

Prior to the actual relocation of Marines to Guam, the CNMI stands ready and willing to assist as the U.S. military carries out this immense relocation process. The CNMI has many resources that may be used to support construction, transportation and lodging during the relocation infrastructure improvement phase. One possibility could include using our construction companies to prefabricate concrete panels to be used for military buildings and houses then having them shipped to Guam. This practice was applied years ago when concrete panels were prepared in Guam before being shipped to Saipan to build the Naval Administration's offices and homes.

Other factors that I urge this committee to consider and assist the good people of the Commonwealth on are:

By PEDRO A. TENORIO
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Pedro A. Tenorio is the Northern Mariana Islands' Resident Representative to Washington, D.C.



1. Increased monitoring of the volcanoes on the northern islands of the Marianas Archipelago. They present a threat to commercial and military air traffic, potential military exercises, and the public health as ash and sulfur dioxide gas are frequently carried by winds to the populated islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam. The lack of a monitoring system also inhibits economic development and any prospective resettlement to these islands. (please see attached letter to Senator Feinstein)

2. Amending the authorizing legislation for the Office of Economic Adjustment to include the CNMI so that we can pursue funding in anticipation of the impact of the buildup. (please see draft amendment)

3. Funding for the rehabilitation, repair and improvements to the Tinian harbor, a joint use facility as agreed to in the Covenant. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates the repairs at \$25.5 million.

4. In addition, the leadership of the island of Tinian has several concerns regarding the use of the military retention area. These include the location of solid waste and waste water treatment facilities on military land, designation of grazing and agricultural areas nears the retention areas, and reimbursement of the water studies cost. The Tinian municipality owes \$1.3 million to the U.S. Geological Survey for exploratory water wells drilled throughout the 1990s, many of which were drilled within the retention area. Since the military plans to use the northern half of Tinian for training purposes, we are requesting payment to the USGS be shared between the Municipality of Tinian and the U.S. military.

I look forward to further dialogue with the U.S. military and this committee.

From 1936 on, after the exodus of top scientists from Europe, the United States won all or part of the Nobel Prize in physics in 45 of the 69 years it was awarded.

Enrico Fermi at the University of Chicago, Hans Bethe at Cornell, Felix Bloch at Stanford, Emilio Segre at the University of California, John Von Neumann and Albert Einstein at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton—this is a partial list of the scientific superstars whose emigration vaulted America to the top ranks of the research world.

But the positive effect that this bounty of top scientists from Europe had on American science is fading fast. While many foreign students still come to the United States for college and graduate school, many are now choosing to return to their home countries rather than stay in the U.S.

Our nation is rapidly becoming the "muscle" of the planet, while Europe is regaining its status as the "brains." This regression will continue as long as we proceed to cut funding for fundamental scientific research while spending hundreds of billions of dollars on war.

To maintain our fragile status as a world leader in science, we have no choice but to place a higher value on fundamental scientific research and back it up with funding. We can't rely on another mass influx of top foreign scientists, like the one that occurred in the 1930s, to bail us out.

Meyer is a professor of physics at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to Cinta Kaipat

Dear Ms. Kaipat:

I'm one of the thousands of guest workers here on your island. In the 11 years that I've been here, I've grown to appreciate your culture, especially the way you value your families. All my Chamorro friends have one thing in common—they go out of their way to show their love, respect and how they protect their parents, their chil-

dren and even their workers. Among the outstanding memories that I have of how you display such concern and care for others is when I met the Teregeyo family during a rosary for Grandy Nonan. If I did not know, I would have thought that it was a rosary for a family member because the Teregeyo family was really busy taking care of every detail. They loved

Grandy and they treated him as their own. It was a touching sight to see!

I read your recent letter titled "Response to Wendy Doromal's comments on Emergency Regulations" with an open mind. I didn't anymore feel slighted for the "racist" remarks because I, just like my fellow guest workers, am used to that. Oh yes, we get those kinds of remarks and generalization but we're

not supposed to complain because we're paid for the work we do. We're expected to keep our heads down all the time and just work, keep quiet when we're abused and pack our stuff when we're told to go home. We're not even allowed to dream of a better life.

Ms. Kaipat, your guest workers are not asking for anything more than the truth, some degree of respect and a

genuine concern because after all, we are the other end in the pendulum. One day in the future, most of us, if not all, will be go back to our own country. I ask you to make us go back with our dignity intact.

God bless you and yours.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Palau	TStorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	TStorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	TStorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	TStorms	▲84 ▼73
Kosrae	TStorms	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	TStorms	▲84 ▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	TStorms	▲56 ▼48
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼63
Hong Kong	TStorms	▲86 ▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼73
London	Rain	▲63 ▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼56
Manila	TStorms	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼50
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼73
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼56
Osaka	Cloudy	▲83 ▼65
Paris	TStorms	▲67 ▼55
Pusan	Sunny	▲85 ▼66
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲78 ▼64
Salem	Cloudy	▲66 ▼49
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼52
Tokyo	Showers	▲77 ▼61
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲75 ▼58

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
5:22AM Today	Low Tide: 1.4 Feet
9:30AM Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
5:13PM Today	Low Tide: -0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:42PM	Today	10:56PM	10:33AM*
Monday	5:46AM	6:42PM	Monday	11:37PM	11:25AM*
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:42PM	Tuesday	11:37PM**	11:25AM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:43PM	Wednesday	12:16AM	12:16PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:43PM	Thursday	12:54AM	1:08PM

*Following Day **Preceding Day

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:46AM	6:42PM	Today	10:56PM	10:33AM*
Monday	5:46AM	6:42PM	Monday	11:37PM	11:25AM*
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:42PM	Tuesday	11:37PM**	11:25AM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:43PM	Wednesday	12:16AM	12:16PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:43PM	Thursday	12:54AM	1:08PM

*Following Day **Preceding Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVERLOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when, the name of contact person, and phone number).
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily

CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily

CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota

CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7

CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily

CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily

CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily Nagoya

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7

OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7

OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

O

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am

Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am

Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm

Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm

Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm

Mid-week Service: 7:30pm

Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm

Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm

Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion
9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am

Sunday: 7am

Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm

Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)

Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Sunday: 6:45am (English)

Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am
(English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville
9:00 AM

Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral
on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158

Pastor JU Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church

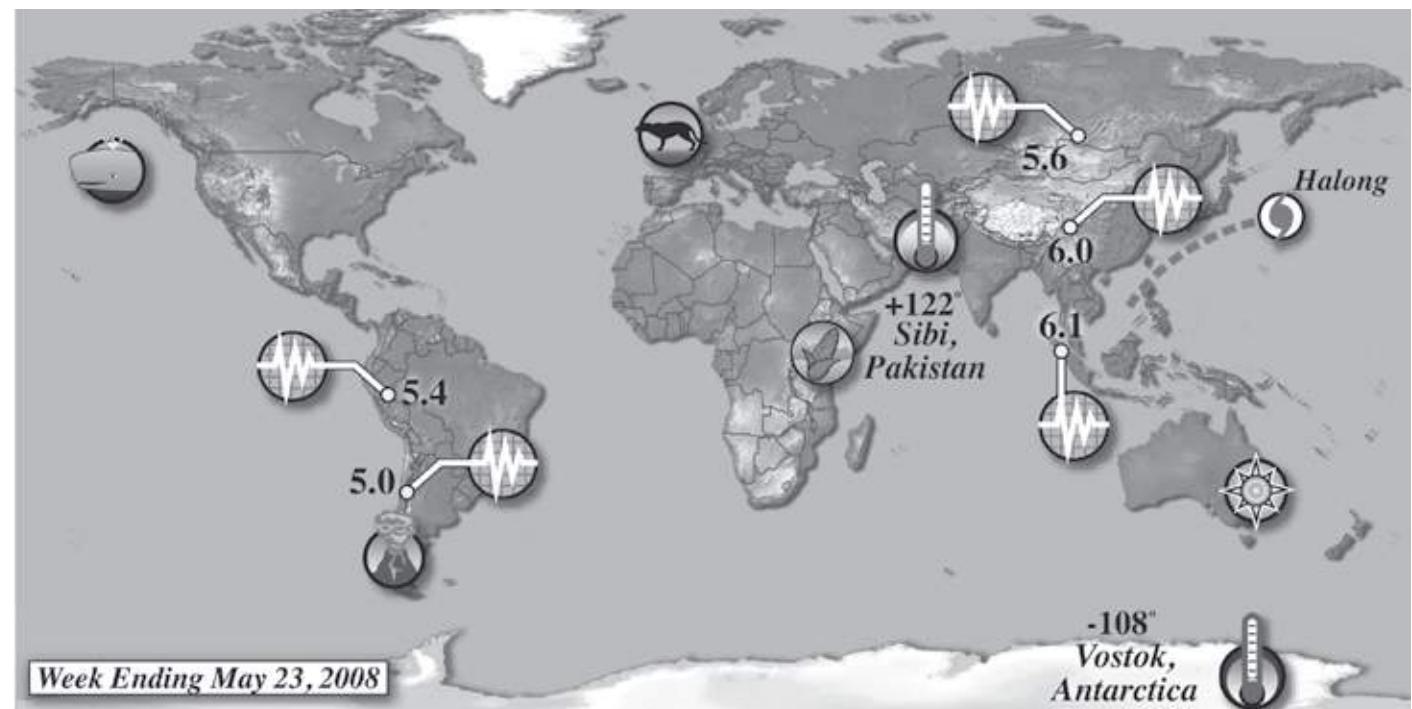
(Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal

8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Biofuel Invasion

The rush to plant crops for biofuel production threatens to spread invasive plant species that could unleash environmental and economic havoc, according to a new report. The Kenya-based Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) warns in the report Biofuel Crops and Non-Native Species: Mitigating the Risk of Invasion, that some plants being brought into unique ecosystems can overwhelm native species, threatening the livelihoods and health of those living nearby. GISP points to the increasing use of the giant reed Arundo donax, which can soak up 500 gallons of water per square yard during its growing period, causing ecological stress in dry regions. The plant is also naturally flammable and increases the possibility of wildfires. Brazil's use of the African oil palm for biodiesel production has turned areas of forest with mixed biodiversity into a homogeneous layer of palm trees, the report says.

Humpbacks Rebound

A new report by the U.S. environmental agency NOAA says that the number of humpback whales in the North Pacific has increased steadily since international and federal protections were enacted during the 1960s and '70s. The number of the endangered marine mammals in the North Pacific has increased from less than 1,500 in 1966 to between 18,000 and 20,000 today. But some isolated populations of humpbacks, especially those in the Western Pacific, have not recovered and still suffer low numbers. Japan canceled plans to slaughter a group of humpbacks during its whaling expedition to Antarctic waters earlier this year after the move sparked international public outrage.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Top court overturns dead fly-in-water damage claim

OTTAWA (AP)—A man who claimed that he became depressed, anxious and phobic after finding a dead fly in a bottle of water will no longer get the judgment he won against a bottling company, Canada's top court ruled Thursday. Martin Mustapha will have to shell out thousands in court costs, instead of collecting the more than \$345,000 he won in an Ontario court three years ago. The Supreme Court of Canada agreed in a 9-0 judgment that Mustapha suffered real psychological harm, but Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin said his reaction was so "unusual or extreme" that bottling company Culligan of Canada Ltd., should not have to pay compensation. McLachlin said the legal test for damages is whether a person of "ordinary fortitude"

Manmade Extinctions

Human activities are causing the most rapid decline in species since the extinction of the dinosaurs, according to a new report issued by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). A census of wildlife conducted by the environmental group reveals that humans have eliminated about 1 percent of all animal species each year, causing one in four species to disappear over the past 35 years. WWF blames over-fishing and hunting, farming, pollution and urban sprawl for the wildlife losses.

Ash Hazard

Environmental scientists in Chile and Argentina are becoming concerned over the long-term damage to the health of people and animals in ash-blanketed parts of Patagonia. A broad swath of those two countries has been in the direct path of ash that spewed from Chile's Chaiten volcano for much of May. The ash has polluted lakes, rivers and lagoons, as well as coating plants and pastures in a dense gray layer. Government officials insist the ash is not toxic, but many residents in its path have complained of burning eyes, breathing trouble and tainted water.

Typhoon Halong

High winds and torrential rainfall from Typhoon Halong killed at least 44 people in the northern Philippines. Most of the fatalities occurred in the province of Pangasinan, 110 miles north of Manila, where victims died after being struck by flying debris or being buried in collapsed structures. The country's national disaster agency said the storm also swept away bridges and washed out roads, making recovery operations difficult.

Earthquakes

China's Sichuan province was jolted by hundreds of aftershocks of the magnitude 7.9 quake that killed more than 50,000 people and left 5 million others homeless on May 12. A 6.0 magnitude aftershock killed three people and spread further trauma among the survivors.

■ Earth movements were also felt in western Sumatra, Russia's Lake Baikal region, central Chile, and east-central Peru.

Yellow Sky of Earth

A climate change activist who was voted "Australian of the Year" in 2007 has proposed a radical scheme to reverse global warming by injecting an element into the atmosphere that would change the color of Earth's normally blue sky. Tim Flannery, an adjunct professor at Macquarie University, made the proposal at a sustainability conference in Canberra. He advocates generating a process called "solar dimming" in which vast amounts of sulfur would be injected into the atmosphere in order to repel the sun's rays. Flannery says the most cost-effective way to deliver the sulfur into the atmosphere would be to add the element to jet fuel. "Everything's going in the wrong direction at the moment, timelines are getting shorter, the amount of pollution in the atmosphere is growing," Flannery said. The injection of sulfur into the atmosphere was one of several actions he believes are needed to save the planet from a climate catastrophe. Flannery admits no one knows if there would be any negative consequences of putting such a vast amount of sulfur into the air.

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www.earthweek.com

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would suffer psychological harm. In Mustapha's case, she concluded, the reaction was so unique that Culligan could not reasonably have foreseen the consequences and should not be held liable. Mustapha insisted that he had been treated unfairly and said finding the dead fly in an unopened bottle of water in 2001 devastated him—to the point that his business and even his sex life suffered. He was diagnosed by several doctors as suffering from severe depression, anxiety and phobias.

Locksmith cracks Ore. safe that baffled MIT expert

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP)—A locksmith has managed to open a 159-year-old safe from Oregon that baffled other professional safecrackers and an expert from MIT. In 2 1/2 hours, Tom Gorham of Longview got

the safe open by spinning the dial and feeling for grooves to get the combination, a technique called manipulation. "You've got to have a lot of patience, and concentration doesn't hurt," Gorham said. Gorham trekked to Astoria, a town about 40 miles west of Longview and 70 miles northwest of Portland, Ore., to try his luck with the 1-ton safe found during renovation at a cannery there. The cannery's owner, Floyd Holcomb, wanted it opened without damage. Gorham and his wife, Kelly, also a locksmith, asked to try after watching a television report on unsuccessful attempts to open the safe. He said an expert from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology had tried, as did another professional locksmith who gave up after 14 hours. Holcomb won't reveal what was inside until he tells the cannery's board next month, Kelly Gorham said.

Good Housekeeping



Centuries after the first one was made, the hammock is still swingin.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Beachy-keen sensibility

By JURA KONCIUS
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Mary Emmerling, a beach girl from way back, spoke with us about her take on decorating by the water.

Q. What are some appealing, affordable elements of beach decorating?

A. It's a clean, fresh look. I love a blue-and-white theme with sisal, pine furniture and white duck washable slipcovers. Lots of good books and rag rugs. It can be as simple as using your tote bag, your sarong and your bathing suit as part of the decor. Buy some colorful blowup beach balls from Orientaltrading.com and use them as shots of color throughout the house.

Q. You've always been a fan of white

walls. What paint do you use?

A. I like a 50-50 mix of Benjamin Moore's Linen White and Decorators White. You can use this for walls and woodwork. Or I also like using Decorators White on the walls and Linen White on woodwork. Otherwise, use a color taken from a bathing suit or a sarong: Pink or aqua is always good.

Q. With all that sun, sand, spray and mold, what fabrics and furniture materials hold up?

A. Washable cottons and linens are what I use. If you put wood outside or on a porch, you have to make sure it has a finish on it to keep it mildew-resistant. There are great indoor-outdoor plastic rugs around now that you can hose off. I still love sisal, although a lot of people think it ages too fast.

Q. You show a lot of open storage in the photos in your beach house book. How do you keep things tidy?

A. Well, neatness does count, but the good thing is that the more stuff you have out, the more you use it. Life at the beach

moves at a fast pace. You're always talking about the next meal. Shall we grill? Shall we get corn? It's great to have all the things you need right out there so guests can see where everything is and help you. It makes it easy to put things away, too.

Q. What do you think about painting old furniture?

A. We had a joke in the Hamptons: If you didn't buy your spray paint by May 15, all the hardware stores were sold out of black, white or dark green. People out there put their furniture on the lawn and give it a fresh coat of paint every year or two, especially what you keep outside or on a porch. It's instant gratification. Black is popular because it's sort of country modern.

Q. What else creates a beachy mood?

A. Hang up big, colorful beach towels. And put flip-flops everywhere. I love those beaded door hangings that blow in the wind. Plant some mint near your outdoor shower. It's the smell of summer.

Hail to the hammock

By BETTIJANE LEVINE
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Apologies to the hammock. It always seemed an object of indolence—a garden metaphor for idle hours spent horizontal, swinging in a breeze.

Au contraire.

The simple sling has survived for more than 1,000 years because it has been a workhorse and comfort for millions who have used it as a bed, birthing table, cradle, sofa—even as a final resting place. In some cultures, the hammock has accompanied individuals from cradle to grave.

The first hammocks were made in Central America centuries ago by people who pounded the bark of the hamak tree and wove it into a hanging haven. Later, they switched to sisal and fabric, which were softer and more comfortable.

By the late 1400s, when Columbus dropped anchor in the Americas, hammocks were in regular use. By night, they were beds. By day, they fulfilled the family's other furniture needs. Fascinated by this humble multipurpose item, Columbus tried it, pronounced it good and brought hammocks home to Europe.

In the 1500s, Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdez documented the customs and culture of Central America's indigenous peoples. "The Indians sleep in a bed they call an hamaca," he wrote, describing the design as a net with twine strings at both ends

that could be hung at any height. "They are good beds and clean," he added, and portable enough for small children to carry. They kept sleeping families off the earth floors of their huts, where snakes, spiders and other creatures wandered through.

When hammocks arrived in Europe, they became staple beds for sailors. The trend lasted for centuries, through the 1940s and World War II, when U.S. warship crews slept in string hammocks often stacked vertically to accommodate more sleepers in less space. U.S. soldiers in the Pacific were issued jungle hammocks that had protective mosquito nets.

A fever for hammocks as outdoor furniture hit the United States in the late 1800s, when homeowners decided they were the height of fashion for garden and porch. The addition of wooden spreaders to keep hammocks flat and easier to use came in the 1900s. Distinctive variations have emerged throughout South and Central America, depending on climate. Mesh or net hammocks provide a ventilated bed in warm areas. Thick cotton or wool hammocks are found in colder ones.

In 1996, James Bogan—professor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, poet and frequent traveler to Brazil—wrote that even today, residents of the Amazon call their hammocks "old mother," a reference to the way hammocks seem to embrace and envelop sleepers in comforting arms.

"Born in the jungle by the shores of a river, the newborn sleeps his first sleep in the hammock as his grandfather will sleep his last," Bogan wrote in an essay. "Then, as is our ancient custom, we bury the dead lying down in their own hammock. We are born, we live, we love, we die in the hammock."

The hammock lives on, Bogan said by phone from his home in Rolla, Mo., "because no one's ever invented anything better. And no one ever will."

Now's the time to fertilize

If you're planning to fertilize your lawn, apply the first of two annual treatments around Memorial Day. Use a slow- or controlled-release fertilizer. Repeat around Labor Day, and nix the third application, formerly recommended for November; it's no longer advised. (© 2008, Newsday)

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THIS IS A HAMMER

Crawl spaces are key to healthy home

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
© 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

DEAR HAMMER: A few women I know bought houses recently, and we have compiled some questions for you. —Thanks From the Girls in Philly

DEAR PHILLY: Thanks, girls! Since each of these questions is quite relevant to all homeowners, I'll tackle them one at a time. Watch for the second article in this three-part series next week.

Q: My house has small metal grates that lead to small crawl spaces on the outside of my house. A rat is the only thing that can move in the crawl spaces or vents. What are these for? This house could be 55 to 100 years old.

A: The grates and crawl spaces are part of the home's "air envelope," a system of vents and open spaces between the outer and inner walls that permit drafts of air to flow freely through this space.

Why would you want drafts coming into your home? Actually, these drafts prevent mold and mildew, dampness and rot from silently destroying the house (and even the health of its occupants).

Don't block up the vents. You might consider having a mesh screen installed behind the grate to dissuade pests, but make sure that the screen does not reduce airflow. A little extra moisture in an old wooden house can do a lot of damage to the structure.

Do have a pest-control specialist come in and get rid of rodents (and their nests, which can block airflow) before screening the grates. It's a good idea to check all the crawl spaces around the house (or have them checked). Don't forget the attic, which is one of the chief airflow areas — its vents should be open and free of obstructions, and the attic should be clean and dry.

HOME TIP: A home's air envelope is a critical part of its structure that keeps dampness and mold out, and helps its occupants stay healthy.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Osso Buco Express

This Italian dish, usually made with thick veal shanks, is done in a flash with the help of a pressure cooker. We call for thinner—and less expensive—veal shoulder arm steaks. They may be labeled as chops, just be sure to look for the small round bone. Serve over rice if you like.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 pounds bone-in veal shoulder arm steaks
- 1 bag (16-ounce) peeled baby carrots
- 8 ounces (half 16-ounce bag) frozen small onions
- 1 medium celery stalk, cut crosswise into 1/2-inch pieces
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 can (14 1/2-ounce) diced tomatoes
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup (loosely packed) fresh parsley leaves, chopped
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh lemon peel

1. In 6-quart pressure cooker, heat oil over high heat. Add half the veal and cook until browned on both sides. Transfer veal to bowl; repeat with remaining veal.

2. Add carrots, onions, celery, garlic, salt, pepper and thyme, and cook 1 minute, stirring. Stir in tomatoes, wine, and 1/4 cup water; heat to boiling over high heat.

3. Return veal to pressure cooker. Following manufacturer's directions, cover pressure cooker, bring up to pressure, and cook under pressure 15 minutes. Release pressure quickly, as manufacturer directs.

4. In cup, mix parsley with lemon peel; sprinkle over stew. Serves 6. (© 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc.)



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Multicolored striped doormat makes for a smart entrance at a good price. At 34 inches, it's on the wide side. \$9.99, at select Target stores.

Got this welcome covered

By LISA BOONE
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES

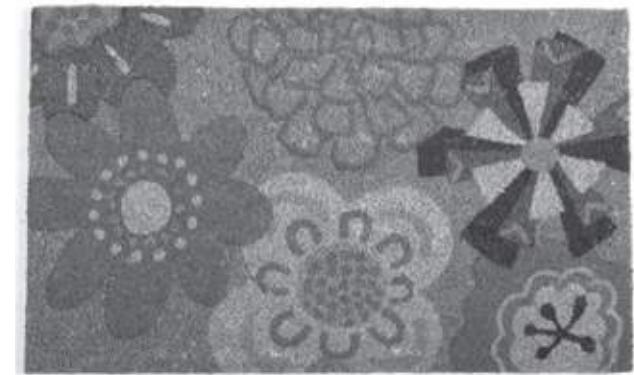
A peacock perches on a leafy silhouette in the Peacock Garden doormat from Anthropologie. In two sizes: small (18 by 30 inches) and large (22 by 36), from \$38 to \$48. At select Anthropologie stores.



The Calendula doormat features blooming marigolds in mustard and brick red. In small (18 by 30 inches) and large (22 by 36), from \$38 to \$48. At select Anthropologie stores.

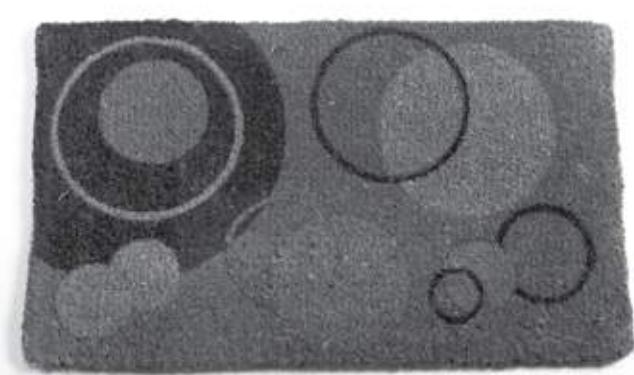
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's easy to brighten your porch with doormats so cool they will make you forget about the heat. Graphic, modern and made of environmentally friendly coir—easy-care coconut fiber—the latest mats greet visitors in an assortment of design-conscious motifs: geometric stripes, mod dots, flowering botanicals, even wildlife such as peacocks and roosters. Colorful and welcoming, these mats will add a whimsical note to even the most sedate of porches, and are durable enough to withstand the wear and tear of every season.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Garden Bloom has low pile for door-swing clearance. Also in Rooster and Daisy patterns in small (18 by 30 inches) and large (2 by 3 feet), from \$18 to \$28. www.garnethill.com.



Graphic circles and dots in blue and brown, pink and orange hues give the Aqua Dots doormat a stylish modern vibe. One size, 30 by 18 inches. \$38. www.chiasso.com.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Good Life

Adding life to the garden

By JAN TYLER
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

Nothing brings a garden to life like a waterfall. It appeals to all the senses: the sound of splashing water on a hot summer day, the sight of bubbly froth swirling on the rocks, the earthy scent of damp moss and moisture-laden air. Birds love to

bathe in shallow pockets and pond fish have been known to hang out under the falling stream as if they were in a kind of fishy spa.

Home improvement experts say now is the ideal time to plan and build a backyard water feature that's sure to captivate and amuse for years to come. Here are two waterfalls that might provide some inspiration.



Ed Drohan, a water garden designer in Sag Harbor, N.Y., says his replica of a mountain waterway is a dead ringer for the primal forest he rambled in as a boy. The Drohan's system recycles 15,000 gallons of water an hour.

Backyard takes on wilderness look

By JAN TYLER
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

MELVILLE, N.Y.—It's as if a really big giant scooped up a chunk of wilderness, hopped on a passing magic carpet and plunked his cargo onto Ed Drohan's backyard.

A fanciful scenario perhaps. But Drohan, a water garden designer in Sag Harbor, says his replica of a mountain waterway is a dead ringer for the primal forest he rambled in as a boy.

"I grew up in the woods; my family's home backed up on 100 virgin acres of forest and lakes and hills," says Drohan, 41. "My friends and I were always exploring and camping in all those hidden little gems in the woods that made us feel like we were the only humans to ever set foot in there."

His vivid boyhood memories of nature in the raw now serve him well. He is certified by Aquascape, a nationwide supplier of landscaping materials that also runs seminars on the latest design techniques. And he is a division manager for Ray Smith and Associates, a South-

ampton landscaping company.

When a career move brought Drohan and his wife, Sara, 32, an elementary school teacher, to Long Island's East End three years ago, their search for a house, he says, "ruled out any that didn't have grade-level changes because an existing slope was the first requirement for the natural landscape I intended to develop for my own home."

Brooklyn-bred Sara's chosen domain, adds her husband, was their cozy wood-shingle-clad house (today, they share it with their 1-year-old son, Adam). But Drohan eyed their hilly backyard with anticipation of creating his dream waterscape on the boulder-studded slope.

In just one week, he and his crew muscled 80 tons of craggy Pennsylvania moss rock onto the barren, one-third-acre site, turning Drohan's nostalgic design into reality while using professional techniques to keep from disturbing the native moss and lichen. What Drohan describes as "a hundred-foot-long river" now flows down the slope, pausing

in a small, tranquil pond and then, in a nature-mimicking zigzag, gushing over a series of rocky waterfall ledges and finally spilling into a large fish pond stocked with koi.

The water is pumped via an underground pipe up to the head of the "river" and recirculated. Nature, too, had a hand in authenticating the untouched wilderness effect: During the site preparation, the antler of a deer was unearthed and remains near where it was found, and, when one of the trees that rim the slope fell, it was left exactly where it landed, as it would in the forest.

"I planted some water hyacinths in the ponds, but only the native grasses along with some yarrow and morning glories that came up by themselves are growing there—nothing that doesn't belong," Drohan says.

"It's important to aerate the water by letting it bounce and splash over the rocks, and I leave it running year-round to keep it from stagnating," Drohan explains. "Besides, the water garden is as beautiful in the winter as it is in the summer."



"We wanted the waterfalls there because it had been an unused spot on the property and the hilly terrain made it a logical location," Stephen Cuchel says.

Estate adds trees as overlooks

By JAN TYLER
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

MELVILLE, N.Y.—It was a landscape designer's dream job—a longtime client wanted a waterfall, and the undeveloped area he'd chosen on his otherwise parklike three-acre estate was ideal. Halfway up a rugged slope, a windblown wild cherry tree had long ago taken root, leaning almost sideways. At the foot of the slope, a shallow gully separated a hilly rise, where the designer had built a gazebo a few years before.

Owner Stephen Cuchel, a dentist, and designer Eric Hagenbruch walked the Roslyn Harbor site together, each envisioning the perceived outcome in perfect agreement.

Except for the cherry tree.

"Steve wanted me to chop it down," says Hagenbruch. "He said it looked like it was about to fall over."

But the designer's vision soon sparked his client's imagination—the pretty tree would arch gracefully over the gushing waterfall.

And so the tree was saved.

Hagenbruch, owner of Finesse Landscape Design In St. James, set his crew to hand carve the excavations for his elaborate concept: a cluster of three falls and two ponds stocked with koi, all fed by a meandering stream. Hand-picked boulders and rocks purchased on Long Island were placed strategically in a carefully planned jumble along the banks, some overflowing onto the grassy hillside as if, in eons past, a shifting glacier had tossed them there.

"I angled each fall in a slightly different di-



The Cuchels' Roslyn Harbor, N.Y., waterfall.

rection so that there's a view of water from every vantage point," says Hagenbruch, who completed the installation two years ago.

Well-hidden but powerful pumps force torrents of water along the stream beds, over the falls and into the ponds, then recirculate it.

Simple plants that emulate the spontaneity of natural growth were tucked into rocky crevasses under the filtered sunlight: dainty creeping Jenny trails over the rocks reaching chartreuse tendrils into the ponds, where aquatics such as Sweet Flag iris, water hyacinths and acorus thrive, creating ecosystems of their own.

Hagenbruch keeps the grounds spick-and-span year-round, paying special attention to greenery at the front entry. From spring bulbs to summer's fuchsia to autumn's ornamental kale and heather and at Christmastime, holly and evergreens, the entry is always welcoming.

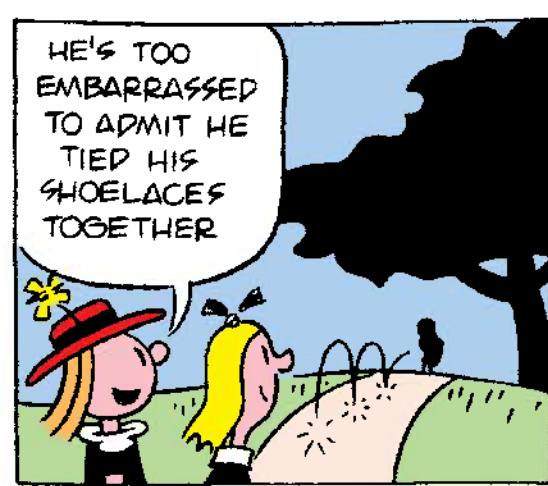
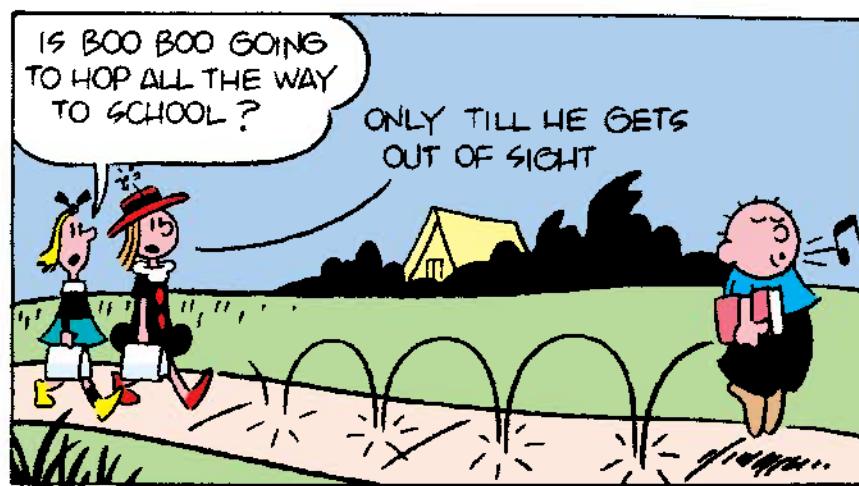
"Because the entry is shaded by an overhang, we put the plantings in large urns on wheels and bring them out to lap up the sun as often as possible," says Hagenbruch. "And we set up a drip watering system in them so they never dry out."

"We wanted the waterfalls there because it had been an unused spot on the property and the hilly terrain made it a logical location," Cuchel says. "And now our 4- and 5-year-old grandchildren love to play there, poking their toes in the water, feeding the fish and just enjoying the place while someone always keeps an eye on them from the gazebo. We leave binoculars there to watch the birds and ducks that come around. It's like the falls have always been there."



The Cuchels' waterfall cost about \$85,000 to install.

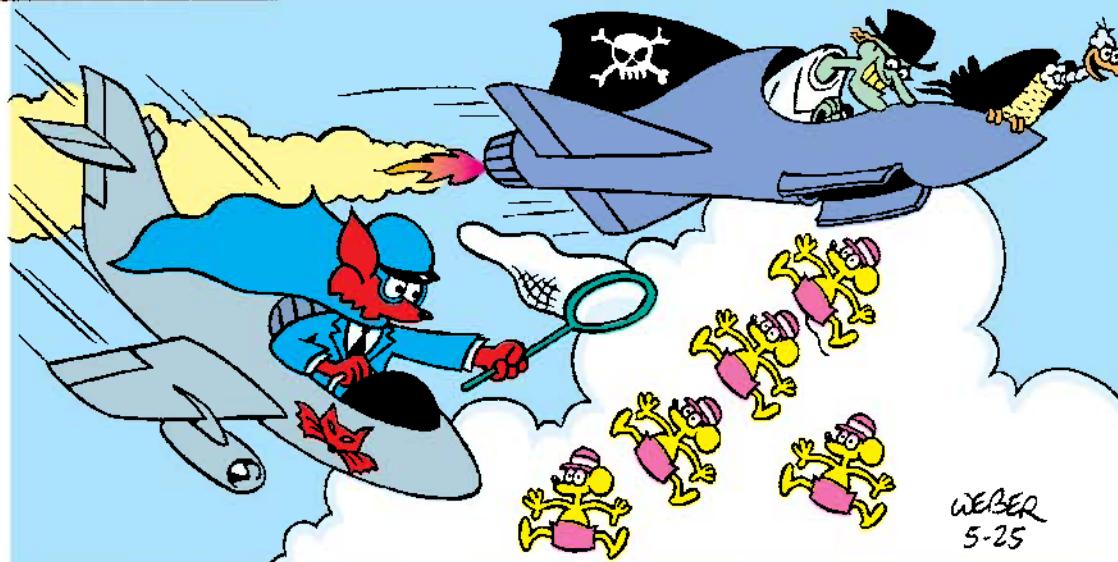
Bob Weber Jr.'s
SLYLOCK FOX
 and
 COMICS for KIDS



Count Weirdly dropped Max Mouse and four robot decoys out of his jet. There is only enough time to rescue one mouse. Slylock knows which mouse to catch because the real Max Mouse doesn't look exactly like the decoys. What is the difference?

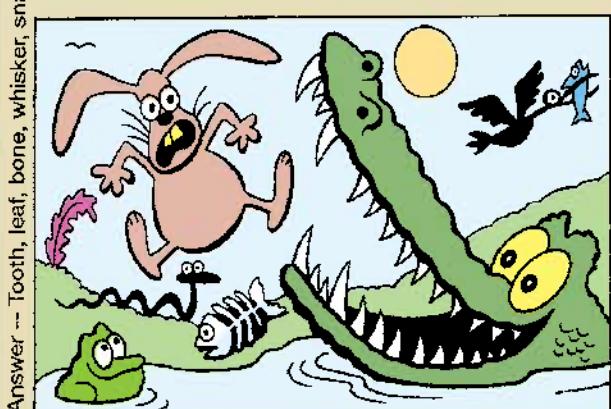
Answer -- Max Mouse has a robot decoys have tails. None of Count Weirdly's tails.

Solve more Slylock Fox puzzles at www.kidcartoonists.com



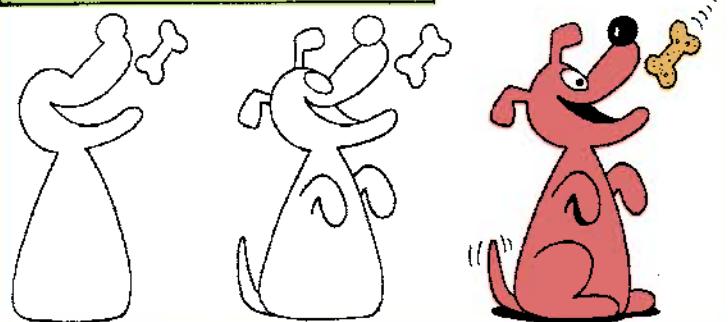
WEBER
5-25

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Tooth, leaf, bone, whisker, snake's fangs and bird's legs.

HOW TO DRAW a happy dog



YOUR DRAWING



Today's terrific cartoon is by Jill Tyler, age 9, of Hutchinson, KS

Submit your drawing at www.kidcartoonists.com

Which one of these animals cannot stick its tongue out?

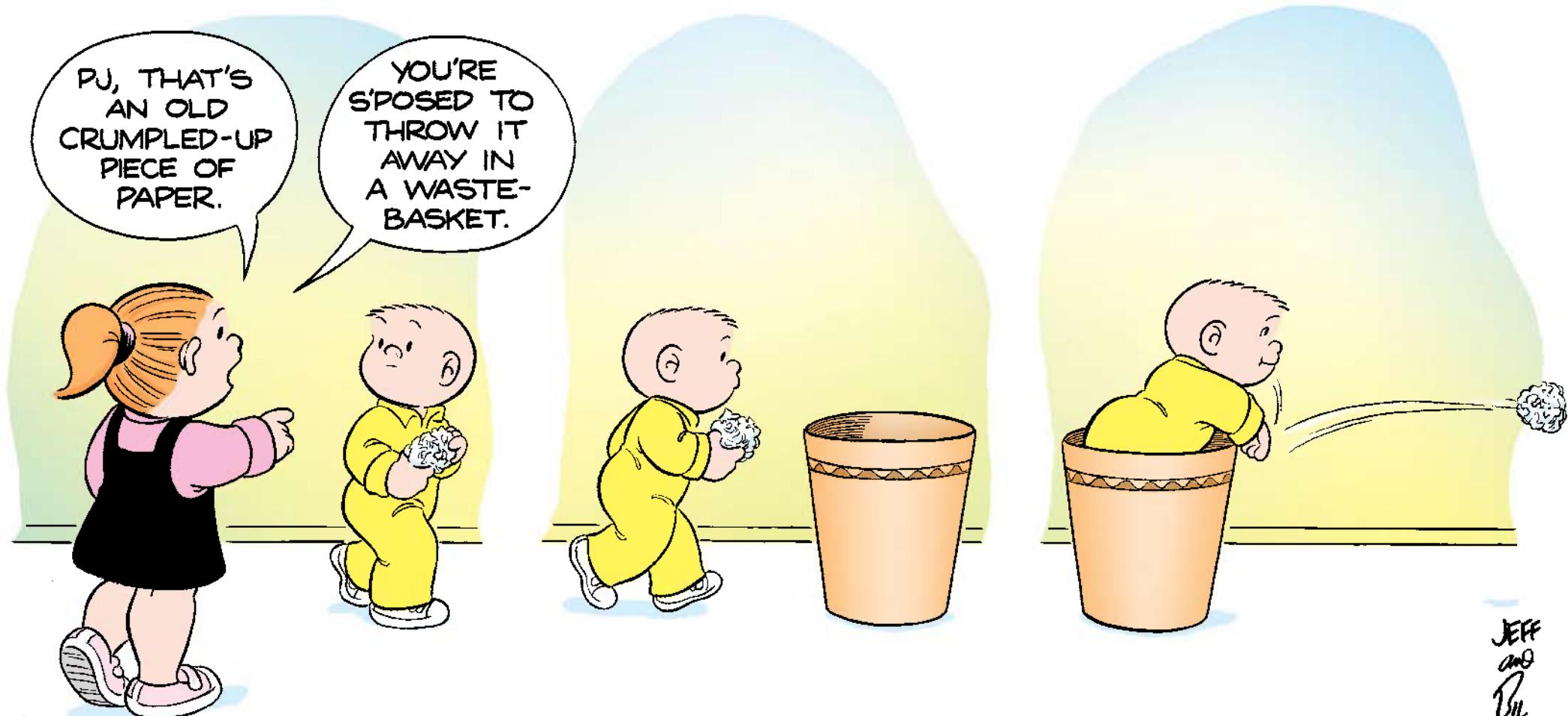
- Bear
- Crocodile
- Gorilla
- Parrot
- Anteater

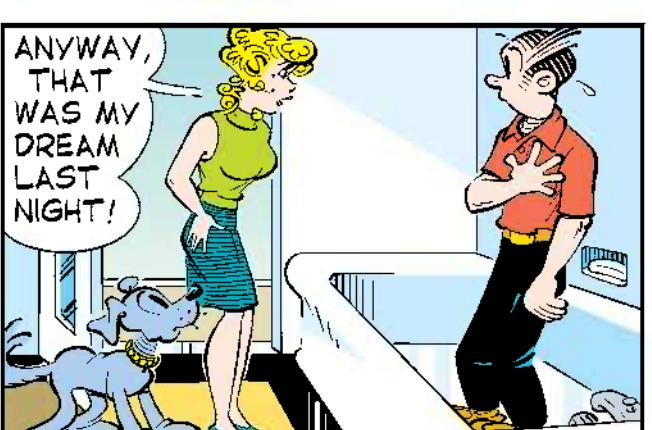
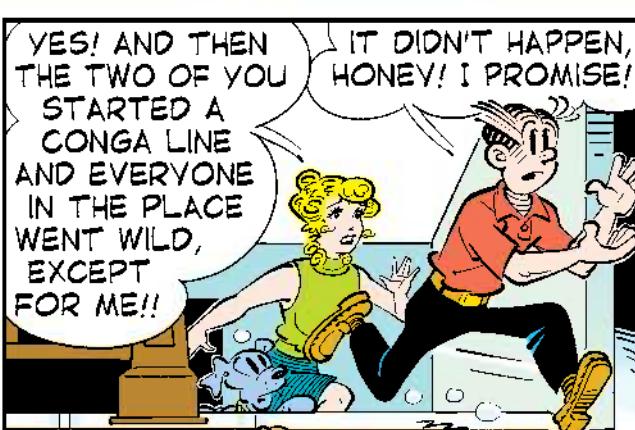
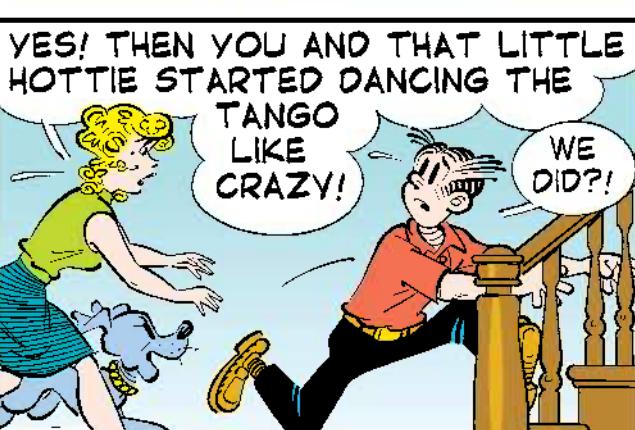
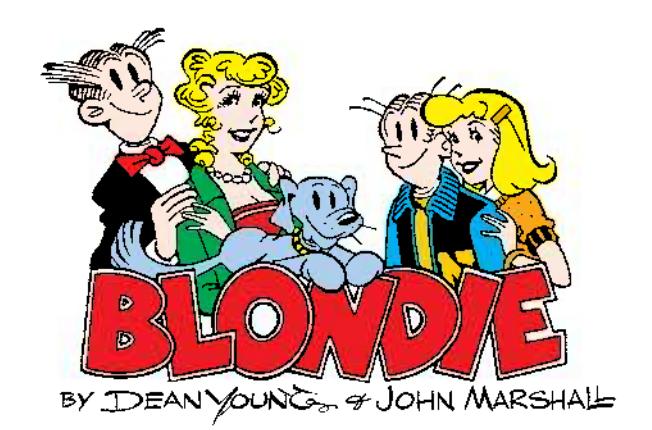
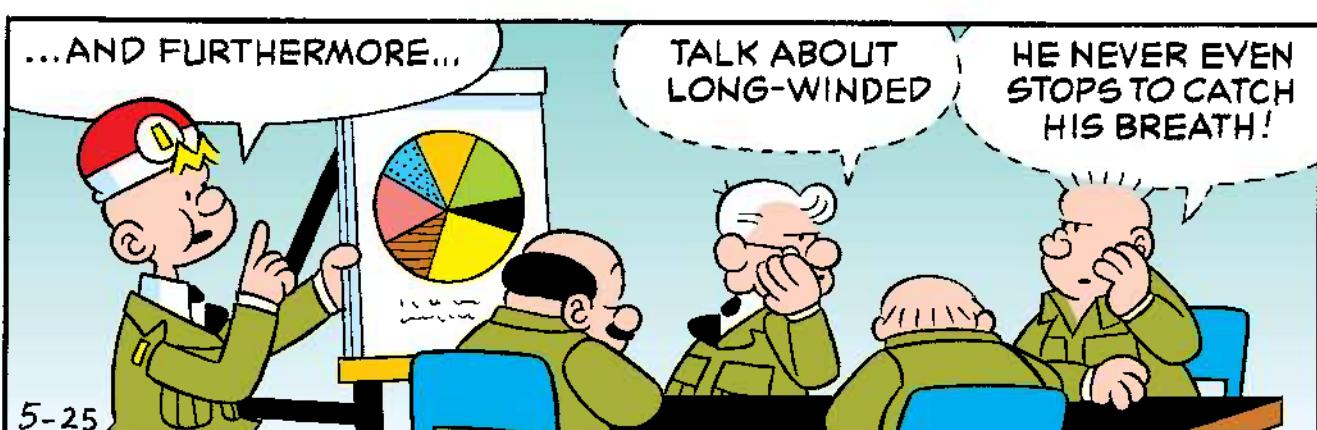
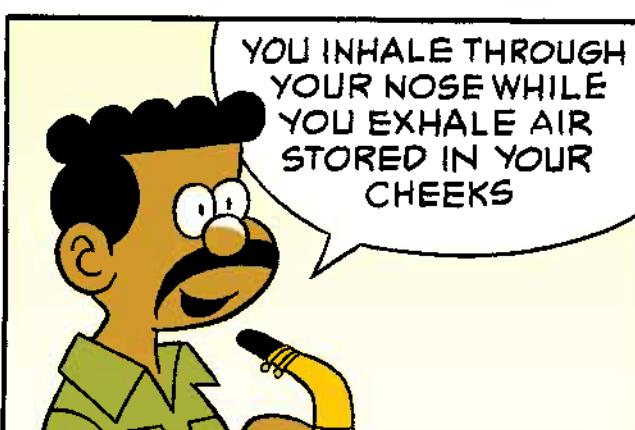
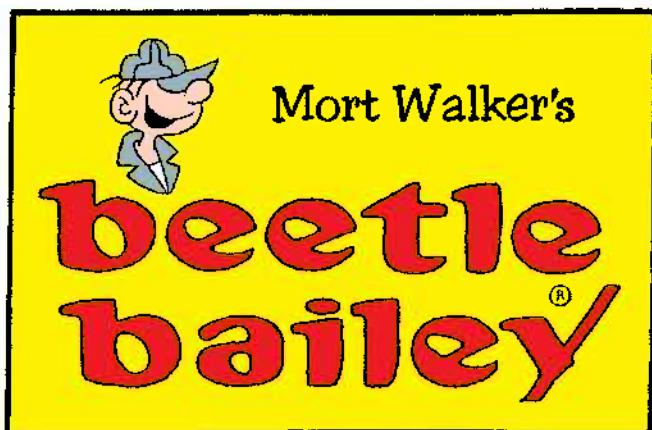
Answer -- b)

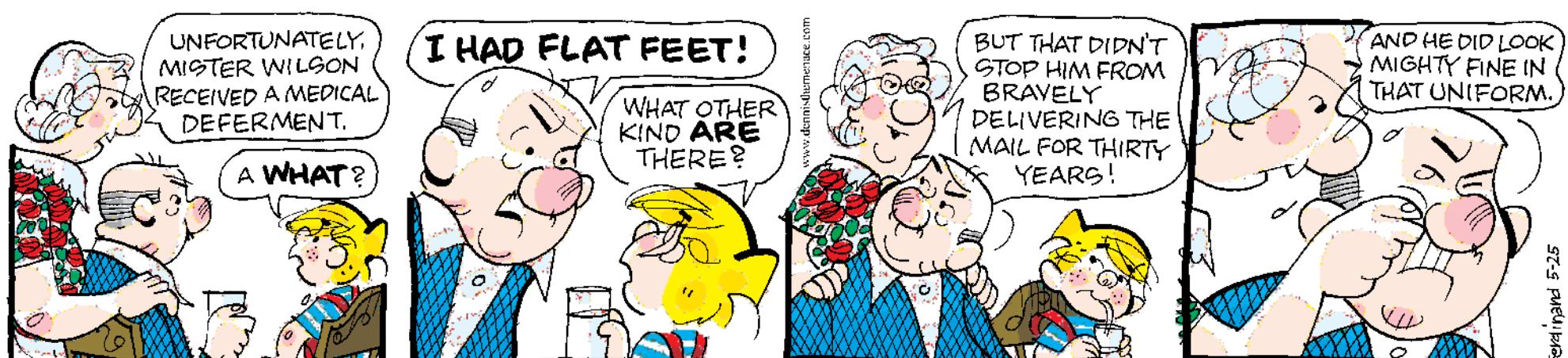
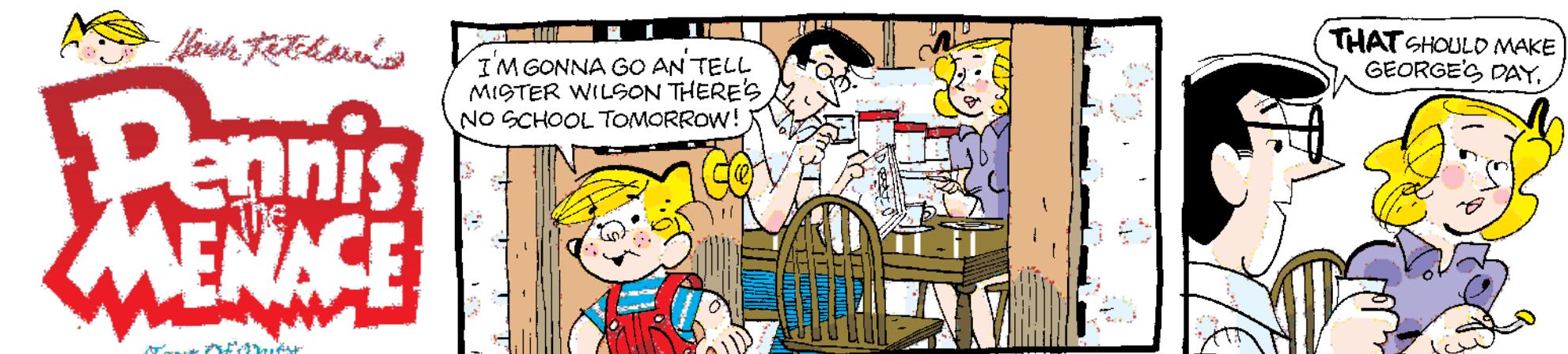
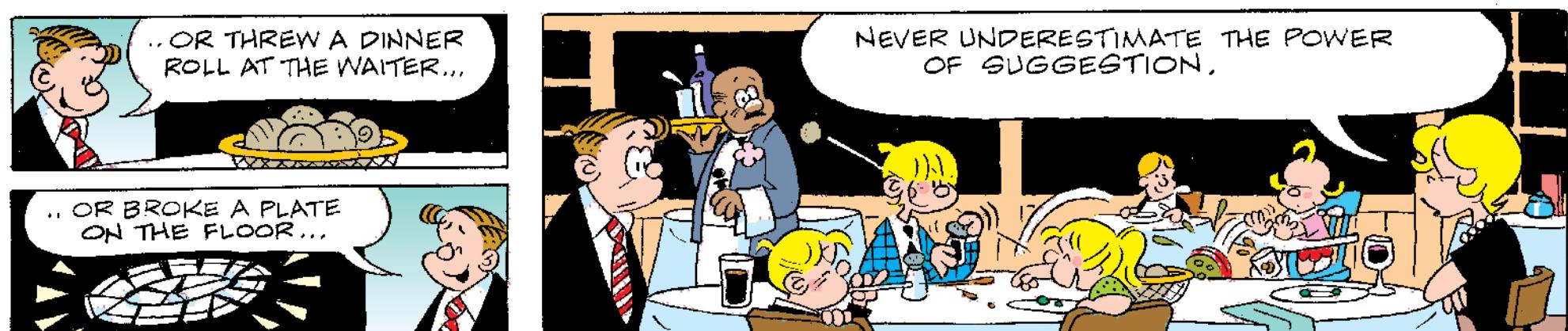
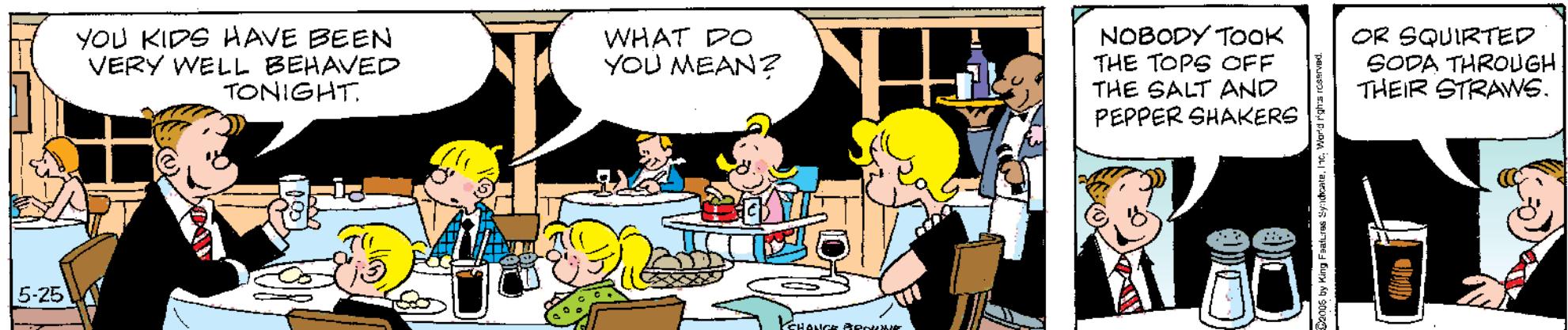
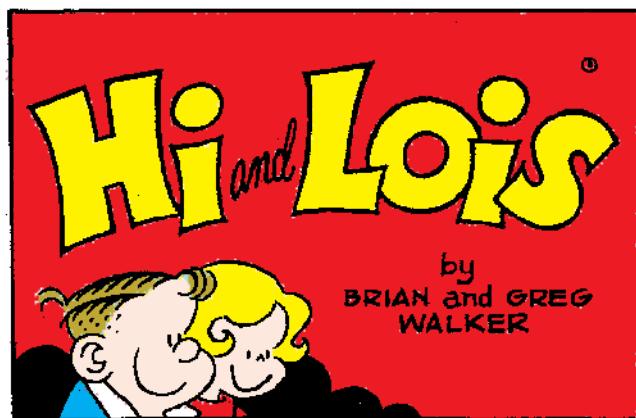
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By BIL KEANE









LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Taking time out of your busy schedule might be the best way to handle that sensitive private matter. It will help reassure everyone involved about your priorities.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Insist on full disclosure by all parties before agreeing to be part of a "great deal." What you learn should help you decide whether to go with it or not.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your decision to protect the secret that was entrusted to you might irk some people. But it also wins you the admiration of those who value trust and loyalty.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Creative activities take on a practical approach as you realize you might be able to market your work. Ask for advice from someone experienced in this area.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) If you're suddenly a bit unsure about your decision, ask trusted colleagues and/or friends or family members for suggestions that could help resolve your doubts.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A workplace situation could get stormy. But stay on course until there's a solution that meets with everyone's approval, and things can finally calm down.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although you might prefer moving forward at a steady pace, it might be a good idea to stop and reassess your plans. You could find a good reason to make a change at this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Just when you thought you had everything planned to the smallest detail, you get some news that could unsettle things. But a timely explanation helps put it all back on track.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Home and work continue to compete for your attention. But you handle it well by giving each its proper due. Someone you trust offers valuable advice. Listen to it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Unsettling news creates a difficult but not impossible situation. Continue to follow your planned routine, but keep your mind open to a possible change down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Lick your wounded pride if you like, but it's a better idea to find out why your suggestions were rejected. What you learn could help you deal with an upcoming situation.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Feeling a bit listless? No wonder. You might be pushing too hard to finish everything on your to-do list. Cutting it down could help get your energy levels up.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
					18				19	20		
21	22	23				24						
25					26	27				28	29	
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33			34				35					
		36				37						
38	39				40	41						
42			43	44					45	46	47	
48			49				50					
51			52				53					

DOWN

1	Praise in verse	9	Milwaukee university	34	Coffee shop vessel
50	Yuletide melody	10	Brotherly baseball name	35	Cowell and Wiesenthal
51	Homer's interjection	11	Sampras or Seeger	37	Wintertime woe
52	Information	16	Sailors' org.	38	Actor Pitt
53	Use a straw	20	Squid squirt	39	Continental coin
36	Kazakhstan river	21	Pleads	40	Rotten kid
37	Super hot	22	Malaria indicator	41	Blue hue
38	Hot dog side dish	23	Yeti's cousin	44	NAFTA signatory
40	Ointment	24	Periodicals, for short	45	Debtor's letters
42	Same old same-old	26	Thwart	46	Moment, for short
43	Sky blue gem	27	Genetic abbr.	47	Wapiti
48	Joan of -	28	Acidic		
49	Jacob's	29	Mug variety		
		31	Drank to		

top ten



TEXT-MESSAGING MARKETS

by percentage of users

1. Houston
2. Austin, Texas
3. Washington, D.C.
4. Miami/ Fort Lauderdale
5. Atlanta
6. Salt Lake City
7. Seattle/Tacoma
8. San Diego
9. El Paso, Texas
10. New York

Source: Scarborough Research

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

S	I	A	M	I	U	B	B	I	L	E
T	O	G	E	R	A	M	E	N		
U	P	O	N	A	L	S	P	E	D	
B	I	G	G	R	L	A	I	R		
O	D	E	O	C	L	O	W			
O	L	D	D	O	E	P				
V	I	A	L	P	I	M	E	A		
C	R	J	O	T	T	A	R	P		
R	A	I	O	P	H	O	N	C		
A	V	E	C	I	T	S	E	L		
P	O	L	O	W	L	T	R	U		
P	O	U	R	R	O	D	R	I		
P	O	S	Y	N	E	D	O	N		

United States

Clinton regrets RFK assassination remark

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly apologized Friday after citing the June 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy in defending her decision to keep running for the Democratic presidential nomination despite increasingly long odds.

"I regret that if my referencing that moment of trauma for our entire nation and in particular the Kennedy family was in any way offensive, I certainly had no intention of that whatsoever," the former first lady said.

The episode occurred as Clinton campaigned in advance of the June 3 South Dakota primary.

Responding to a question from the Sioux Falls Argus Leader editorial board about calls for her to drop out of the race, she said: "My husband did not wrap up the nomination in 1992 until he won the California primary somewhere in the middle of June, right? We all remember Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in June in California. You know I just, I don't understand it," she said, dismissing the idea of abandoning the race.

Clinton said she didn't understand why, given this history, some Democrats were calling for her to quit.

Her remark about an assassination during a primary campaign drew a quick response from aides to Democratic presidential front-runner Barack Obama.

"Senator Clinton's statement before the Argus Leader editorial board was unfortunate and has no place in this campaign," said Obama spokesman Bill Burton.

Clinton spokesman Mo Ellethie said the senator was only referring to her husband and Kennedy "as historical examples of the nominating process going well into the summer and any reading into it beyond that would be inaccurate and outrageous."

She has said much the same thing before. In a March interview with Time magazine, she said: "Primary contests used to last a lot longer. We all remember the great tragedy of Bobby Kennedy being assassinated in June in L.A. My husband didn't wrap up the nomination in 1992 until June, also in California. Having a primary contest go through June is nothing particularly unusual."

Within a couple hours of the South Dakota remarks drawing attention, Clinton decided to make a personal apology.

'Aphrodisiac' kills NYC man

NEW YORK (AP)—Health officials are warning New Yorkers to stay away from an illegal aphrodisiac made from toad venom after the product apparently killed a man.

The city's poison control center issued the warning Friday after receiving a hospital report that a 35-year-old man who ingested the hard, brown substance died earlier this month.

The product is sold under names including Piedra, Love Stone, Jamaican Stone, Black Stone and Chinese Rock at sex shops and neighborhood stores. It is banned by the Food and Drug Administration.

City health officials said the victim, whose identity was not released, was admitted to the hospital complaining of chest and abdominal pain. He died two days later.

Health officials said the hardened resin, made with venom from toads of the *Bufo* genus, contains chemicals that can disrupt heart rhythms.



This undated photo provided by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shows Black Stone, one of the names of an illegal substance made from toad venom and sold as an aphrodisiac.



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., steps away after a statement to the press at Sunshine Foods in Brandon, South Dakota Friday, May 23, 2008. AP

Cindy McCain earned \$6M in 2006

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cindy McCain, who two weeks ago said she would never make her tax returns public, revealed Friday that she had a total income of more than \$6 million in 2006.

The presidential campaign of

her husband, Republican John McCain, released the top two summary pages of her 2006 tax return, eager to avoid making her earlier refusal an issue in the contest.

The documents show that Mrs. McCain, who files her tax-

es separately from her husband, paid more than \$1.7 million in federal income taxes - a tax rate of more than 28 percent. She reported nearly \$570,000 in itemized deductions.

McCain's campaign said she had received an extension on her

2007 tax returns and aides said it is likely she would make those public when they are filed.

The Arizona senator released his own tax return last month, reporting a total income of \$405,409 in 2007 and \$84,460 in federal income taxes.

Winds hinder fight vs Calif. wildfire

GILROY, Calif. (AP)—Fire crews struggled on Friday to maintain fire lines around a wildfire that chewed through centuries-old redwoods and pushed hundreds out of their homes in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Gusty winds picked up in the afternoon after heavy morning fog had given much-needed relief to firefighters. By Friday evening, they had contained about 25 percent of the blaze.

The fire, which burned about 5 square miles, had destroyed 28 structures, including 17 homes, officials said. Another 500 were threatened.

Almost 2,000 residents remained under evacuation orders—more than 450 of them mandatory—while almost 2,700 firefighters and a swarm of tanker planes and helicopters continued dousing the area, said Dave Shew, a battalion chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas appeals sect ruling, lets 3 families reunite

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—State child welfare authorities on Friday appealed a stinging court ruling that said their seizure of more than 440 children from a polygamist sect's ranch was unjustified, but they also agreed to reunite 12 children with their parents while the case moves on. The agreement narrowly specifies 12 children, some of whose parents had filed a motion with a state district court in San Antonio for their release from state foster care. CPS agreed to allow the parents to live with their children in the San Antonio area under state supervision, said Teresa Kelly, a spokeswoman for Haas. The families cannot return to the Yearning For Zion ranch, where they lived before the raid.

Sailor suffers minor burns in US carrier fire

HONOLULU (AP)—A fire aboard the USS George Washington aircraft carrier left one sailor with minor burns and 23

others with heat stress. Sailors extinguished the fire several hours after flames were spotted Thursday near the auxiliary boiler room and air conditioning and refrigeration space in the rear of the nuclear powered ship. The Navy said the fire spread through a passageway for cables. It also said the carrier's propulsion plant was not damaged and the fire did not threaten the safety of the ship's nuclear reactor. The Navy said it was investigating the cause of the fire and assessing damage to the ship. Injured sailors were treated and have returned to duty.

1 dead in crane collapse at KC-area power plant

IATAN, Mo. (AP)—An 800-ton crane collapsed Friday at a construction site near a Kansas City Power & Light power plant, killing one worker and injuring three others, authorities said. The victims were contract employees working on a new coal-fired plant at the site, utility spokesman Matt Tidwell said. The crane tipped over and crumpled near the construction

Asia

Quake mutes protests of Beijing Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—China's deadly earthquake may have saved the Beijing Olympics. Just a few weeks ago, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge described the games as "in crisis." They were being battered by pro-Tibet protests, health concerns about Beijing's noxious pollution, and calls for boycotts tied to China's support for Sudan.

The May 12 earthquake changed everything.

"I'm sorry to say it, but this has turned things around," said Gerhard Heiberg, a member of the IOC's executive board member and its marketing director.

After the tragedy in Sichuan province, the games are now riding a wave of goodwill - a feeling that the government's propaganda machine had failed for months to generate.

Of course, 11 weeks remain before the Olympics begin on Aug. 8, and another unexpected event could change everything. Politics still loom, and some athletes are still expected to use the games to speak out on political issues like Darfur and Tibet.

"What the earthquake has done ... it has essentially pushed the coverage of the preparations for the Olympics to the margins, temporarily," said Phelim Kine, Hong-Kong based Asia researcher for Human Rights Watch. "But that coverage and focus will quickly return in the days and weeks ahead."

"The media will move on from this immediate focus on the humanitarian tragedy in Sichuan, and there will be space for other stories and other coverage," he said.

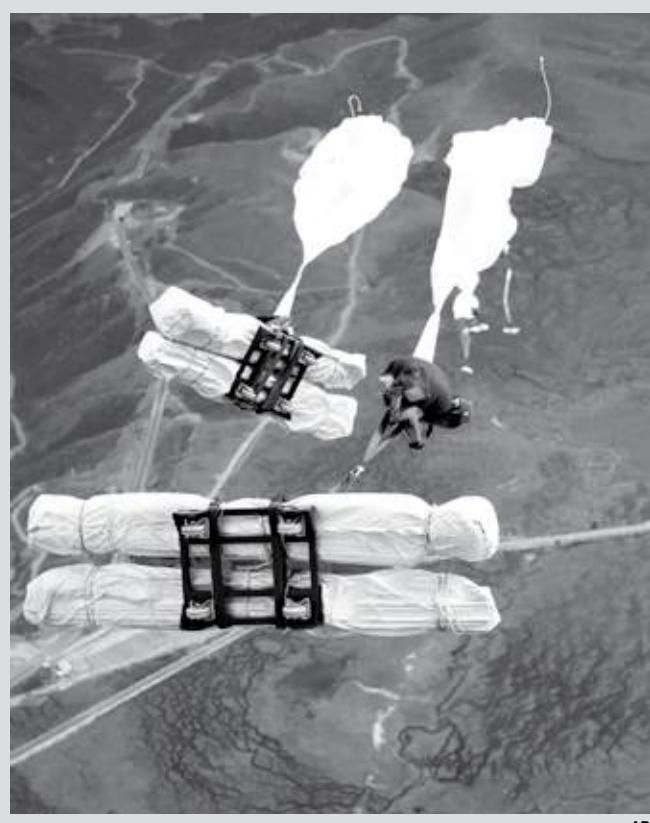
China child virus outbreak eases

BEIJING (AP)—The spread of a virus that has sickened more than 24,000 people and killed dozens across China is slowing in the province where the outbreak was first reported, a state-run news agency said Friday.

The health department in eastern Anhui province said no deaths from the hand, foot and mouth disease virus had occurred there in the past 12 days, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The report said the number of new cases reported daily had dropped from a high of 1,160 on May 1 to 153 on May 21. It said 10 people were still in serious or critical condition.

The World Health Organization could not verify the figures and whether the decline was significant.



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, tents are dropped from a cargo plane flying over quake-hit areas in the Aba Autonomous Prefecture of the Tibetan and Qiang Ethnic Minorities, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Thursday, May 22, 2008. China's Air Force dropped 958 tents for earthquake survivors in the areas on Thursday, Xinhua said.

Ban checks on quake relief efforts

YINGXIU, China (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived in China on Saturday to visit earthquake relief efforts as experts searched for 15 radiation sources buried in the rubble and survivors moved out of possible danger areas downstream from rivers dammed by landslides.

Ban flew to Yingxiu, about 40 miles southeast of the May 12 quake's epicenter in Sichuan province and went into a meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao, who also was visiting the area.

Ban's visit was meant to "express his care for those who suffered" in the quake that killed more than 55,000 people, the government's Xinhua News Agency reported.

As relief workers grappled with finding tents and getting food and medical care for the displaced Friday, rescue teams evacuated survivors living downstream from rivers dammed by landslides. With their waters pooling, the blocked rivers could breach the earthen barriers, a danger that would grow with coming rains or in aftershocks from the quake that led to 55,000 deaths.

Myanmar to allow foreign help

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar

(AP)—Myanmar's ruling junta said Friday it will let foreign aid workers and commercial ships help survivors in the cyclone-ravaged Irrawaddy Delta, but refused to relent on accepting aid from U.S., French and British military ships.

The ships, almost within sight of the coast for more than a week, offer a huge potential boost to the aid effort because they can send helicopters to the hardest-to-reach spots.

The military regime told U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Friday that all aid work-

ers would be let into the country as long as it was clear what they were doing and how long they would remain.

The Irrawaddy Delta, Myanmar's key rice-producing region, was decimated by Cyclone Nargis, but the xenophobic junta has kept it virtually off-limits to foreign aid workers.

An estimated 2.5 million people remain in severe need, threatened by disease, hunger and exposure because of the loss of their homes. The U.N. says only about 25 percent of survivors have received any kind of aid.

World

Mexican homicides jump 47 pct.; 1,378 die in '08

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Homicides related to organized crime jumped 47 percent in 2008, Mexico's attorney general said Friday in a rare confirmation of how bad violence has become.

Police later made two gruesome discoveries in northern Mexico. Five bodies—two of them decapitated—were found wrapped in blankets in a city on the border with Texas, along with two heads in sacks. In another state, police found four severed heads in ice chests along a highway.

Neighboring Mozambique, meanwhile, declared a state of emergency to free government funds for citizens fleeing attacks. South African police reported sporadic violence - but no deaths - across the country Friday, leaving scores more homeless.

At least 42 people have been killed and more than 25,000 foreigners displaced since attacks began earlier this month by South Africans who blame immigrants for crime and unemployment. More than 500 arrests have been made.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—For the fourth time in less than a year, a human foot in a running shoe has been found along the British Columbia coast.

Police said Friday that they don't know if there are any links between the cases of the four severed right feet found

The statistic reflected what many in Mexico already knew: Drug-related killings have soared in recent months.

But the details were the first official snapshot on the rise in killings. The Mexican government has been reluctant to release homicide statistics, leaving the public to rely on informal tallies by the news media.

Medina Mora broke that silence, saying 4,152 people have been killed since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2006 and declared war on drug cartels that controlled entire regions of Mexico. About 450 of those were police, soldiers, prosecutors or investigators.

4th right foot found off Canada coast

on island shorelines in the Vancouver region.

Authorities say they haven't reached any conclusions about the origin of the feet. But local speculation has been rife with some reports claiming they belonged to victims of violent crimes or a plane crash.

WORLD BRIEFS

Shark kills surfer in southern Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—An official says a shark has killed a Mexican surfer off the Pacific coast. Local Civil Protection Director Jaime Vazquez Sobreira says 21-year-old Osvaldo Mata Valdovinos was attacked off Pantla beach in southern Mexico. Sobreira says the shark bit off the surfer's left hand and broke one of his legs. Friday's attack occurred six miles from a beach where a shark killed an American surfer last month. Environmental organizations have demanded that authorities post warning signs about sharks in the area of southern Guerrero state.

Basra shooting strains truce between govt, militia

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi soldiers fired in the air over supporters of anti-U.S. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to prevent them from gathering for Muslim prayers Friday in the southern city of Basra, enraging the worshippers and straining a fragile truce with the government. In another worrisome sign, a top aide to al-Sadr accused Iraqi forces of violations of a separate truce in Baghdad's Sadr City, where thousands of Iraqi troops have deployed in what has so far been a peaceful campaign to impose control. Sadr Movement officials in both Basra and Sadr City said they were abiding by the cease-fires, but the shooting in the southern city angered al-Sadr's followers throughout southern Iraq and in Baghdad.

Canadian detainee at Guantanamo wins document access

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's government violated the constitution when it gave American officials the results of interviews conducted with a Canadian detainee at the Guantanamo Bay prison, the nation's top court said Friday. The high court ruled 9-0 that Omar Khadr has a constitutional right to material directly related to interviews

that Canadian intelligence officials conducted with him during his detention. Khadr's attorneys say they'll use the documents to help defend him against a murder charge before a U.S. tribunal. Khadr was captured in July 2002 and is accused of throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. special forces soldier during a firefight in Afghanistan. He was 15 at the time and is now 21.

UN peacekeepers ambushed in Darfur

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Dozens of men on horseback armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades ambushed Nigerian peacekeepers serving with the joint U.N.-African Union force in Darfur, though no casualties were reported, the U.N. said. About 50 to 60 armed men dressed in military camouflage on Wednesday afternoon ambushed the peacekeepers along the new airport road near El Geneina in West Darfur state, the U.N.-AU mission known as UNAMID said in a statement Thursday. They stole rifles, ammunition, telephones and cash. UNAMID did not say who was suspected in the attack.

Swiss destroy evidence in nuclear smuggling case

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Switzerland destroyed nuclear arms plans seized as evidence in a case linking a Swiss family to Libya's now-abandoned atomic program. But President Pascal Couchebin stressed Friday it was to prevent them from falling into terrorists' hands. The documents formed part of a case against three members of the Tinner family who are suspected of involvement in the nuclear smuggling ring of Abdul Qadeer Khan, a key figure in Pakistan's atomic weapons program. Khan has admitted selling nuclear arms technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. Couchebin said federal prosecutors discovered that the information contained in the files could be "explosive" for Switzerland's national security.

Focus

What makes up the price of gas?

By JOHN PORRETTA and JOHN WILEN
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Consider the game of chicken that plays out every day across Pennsylvania State Highway 441. In Marietta, where the road hugs the Susquehanna River, a Rutter's Farm Store gas station stands on one side, a Sheetz gas station on the other.

Kelly Bosley, who manages Rutter's, doesn't even have to look across the highway to know when Sheetz changes its price for a gallon of gas. When Sheetz raises prices, her own pumps are busy. When Sheetz lowers prices, she has not a car in sight.

She calls Rutter's headquarters to report the competition's new price and wait for instructions.

"I call a lot of times and say, 'They went down, hurry up!'

is the historic ascent of crude oil, which has surged from \$45 per barrel in 2004 to more than \$135 this past week, setting new record highs all the while.

In the first quarter of this year, based on a retail price of gas that now seems like a steal—\$3.11 a gallon—crude oil accounted for all but about a dollar, or 70 percent, of the cost, according to the federal government.

The rest is a complex mix of factors, from the cost of turning oil into gas to taxes to marketing costs to, sometimes, nothing more than the competitive whims of your local gas station owner.

Not that understanding the breakdown makes it any less cringe-inducing to fill 'er up.

■ ■ ■

First a primer on how gas gets to your tank:

Once oil is pumped from the ground, it can be sold on the

Crude oil is the driver. As long as it stays up there, gasoline's not going to be able to decline much at all, even if demand slips.

That's just the way it is. ▶

Hurry up! Call me! Call me! Or it could be where theirs goes up, and I'll say, 'Take your time! You know, I like being busy.' But I have no control over that."

You think you feel helpless at the pump?

Bosley makes a living selling gas—and even she has little control over what it costs.

So how exactly are gas prices set? What determines the hair-pulling figure you see displayed in large electronic or plastic numbers? Why is a gallon of gas, say, \$4.11—not \$4.10 or \$4.12? Why is the price different across the street?

It all starts with oil.

The biggest factor in the skyrocketing price of gasoline

spot market, a last-minute trading arena where oil companies and distributors buy and sell to each other, or straight to refiners. After it's brewed into gasoline, the product can again be sold on the spot market, or directly to wholesalers, who in turn can supply their own stations or sell it to other retailers.

Each step of the way, buyers and sellers negotiate a price until, finally, drivers pay the ultimate tab at the pump.

At the starting point of all this is the price of oil—which, like the oil itself, is nothing if not crude.

The knee-jerk villains are the oil companies, fat with multibillion-dollar profits, frequent targets of populist anger. But wait:



AP
Mahesa Kumar pumps gas in Portland, Ore., after changing the price of premium gasoline to just over \$4 a gallon on their marquis Wednesday, May 21, 2008.



Gas tanker trucks line up to fill up at the Conoco Phillips storage and distribution yard in Portland, Ore., Thursday, May 22, 2008.

The oil companies don't set the price of oil or the cost of a gallon of gas.

Prices are a function of the open market, the result of futures contracts being traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange, or Nymex, and other exchanges around the world.

Buying the current July crude oil futures contract means you're buying oil that will be delivered by the end of July. But most investors who trade futures have no intention of ever accepting the underlying oil: Like stock investors who frequently buy and sell their holdings, they're simply betting that prices will rise or fall.

Of late, on the Nymex, oil futures have been rising.

Why? Blame the falling dollar. Oil is priced in U.S. dollars, and the weaker the dollar gets, the more attractive dollar-denominated oil contracts are to foreign investors—or any investor looking for a safe haven in the turbulent stock market.

The rush of buyers keeps pushing oil futures to a series of new records, and the rest of the energy complex, including gasoline futures, has followed. That pushes up the price of gas that goes into your tank.

"Crude is the driver," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and As-

sociates in Galena, Ill. "As long as it stays up there, gasoline's not going to be able to decline much at all, even if demand slips. That's just the way it is."

There is some evidence Americans are buying less gas as the price marches higher, and common sense suggests they would cut back even more if gas rose to \$4.50 or \$5 a gallon.

Lower demand should mean lower prices—but it takes time for that to happen, given the enormous scale of refining operations that produce gasoline.

"Once demand begins to slow, that needs to translate into inventories, then you get some price weakening," Ritterbusch said. "But it takes a while."

Oil and gasoline prices often move in the same direction, but they aren't linked directly. In fact, while oil prices have more than doubled in the past year, gasoline is only up about 19 percent during the same time.

Oil prices often fluctuate with production decisions from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which supplies about 40 percent of the world's crude, or when conflict in the Middle East or Nigeria threatens supplies.

For example, oil prices rose \$2.46 in one day last month amid reports a ship under contract to the Defense Department fired warning shots at two boats in the Persian Gulf that may have been Iranian.

A Navy spokesman later said the origin of the boats was unclear, but the news raised concerns that a conflict between U.S. and Iranian forces could cut oil supplies from the region. That same day, gas prices rose another 2.1 cents to a then-record national average of \$3.577 a gallon on other supply concerns.

And the rise has only grown more dramatic. Oil sprinted higher this past week, rising more than \$4 a barrel on Wednesday alone and past \$135 on Thursday.

As for gasoline prices: They're closely tied to demand from U.S. drivers and how efficiently refineries are operating. Falling production or inventories often send prices skyrocketing.

Those prices can vary greatly depending on the region.

The Gulf Coast is the source of about half the gasoline produced in the United States, and areas farthest from there tend to have higher prices because of the cost of shipping gas via pipeline and tanker truck all over the country.

Some of those places, like California and New York, also have higher local taxes that push

See WHAT on Page 20

Life & Style

THREE WISE GUYS

Prom tux quandary, dead birds, folding a fitted sheet

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and

DAN ZAK

© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys:

I just saved a wad of cash because my dad agreed to let me borrow his plain black tuxedo for prom night. However, my date, who will be wearing green, insists that we match. Should I pony up the cash and buy me a green vest to please the lady (I already offered to wear the same dress as her, but she declined the offer), or should I pocket the money so I can afford to eat next year at college?—A High School Senior

Dan: Is your date taking YOU to the prom, or is she taking the

color green? Because if she's more interested in green than in you, just send her to the dance with a dollar bill and go stag with your nice black tuxedo, knowing that you saved \$29 of the \$30 you would've spent on a vest.

Justin: Or you could take your cues from Lucky Charms commercials, which have taught me that a bright green topcoat is a pretty sharp look when paired with a matching top hat and comically oversize shoes. Admittedly, costume rental doesn't save you any money, but a corsage of clover is probably a lot cheaper than boring old lilies.

■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

Where do birds go to die? There are millions of them,

and yet we don't see carcasses lying all over the place. I mean anywhere. The only dead birds I see are the unfortunate ones who tempt fate by eating food off the road. Any ideas?—Debbie

Joe: Bird deaths are actually quite rare. The ones that die are either killed by hunters, charred by power lines or line-driven by the occasional pro golfer with a vendetta against noisy red-shouldered hawks. (Yeah, I'm talking about you, Tripp Isenhour.) But birds dying naturally? It's almost unheard of. Most of the birds that you see flying around are thousands of years old.

Justin: Why is Joe even allowed to answer questions? Not

surprisingly, bird experts have a different take on this. According to Miyoko Chu, of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "scavengers such as crows, raccoons and cats are constantly on the lookout for an easy meal, and they often find dead birds before we do." The size of birds also is a factor. "Small birds can be hard to see when they're lying on the ground around grass, trees or other vegetation, so even insects may consume a small bird before a person happens by," Chu says.

In fact, dead birds (and even live ones) are so difficult to locate that scientists use birders to help track populations in order to estimate the number of annual avian deaths. Each year "hundreds of millions of birds

are estimated to die after crashing into windows, and 100 million are estimated to be killed by cats," Chu says. And that doesn't even take into account the much-harder-to-document natural causes.

Joe: I have a parrot that is 900 years old.

■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

What's the most effective way to fold a fitted sheet so it lies flat? Every time I try to be domestic and fold one, all I come up with is a lumpy sheet blob.—Maria

Joe: Like so many things in life, fitted sheets solve one problem (disheveled bed) while creating another (disheveled closet shelf). And while there

probably is a homemaker geometry class that could help you solve your folding conundrum, you're probably better off embracing your fitted sheets' closet lumpiness in exchange for their on-the-bed tautness. As with our presidential candidates, sports heroes and beers, we can hope for perfection in every area, but we need to learn to accept flaws.

Dan: How have you not Googled "how to fold a fitted sheet"? Come on. The answer lies in the first page of that Google search, in the form of a 2 1/2-minute how-to video conducted by someone who has the appearance of a car mechanic (but the folding abilities of Martha Stewart).

WHAT

From Page 19

the price higher.

Oil companies may not set the price of oil and gasoline, but not everyone is willing to sit back and let them claim to be innocent bystanders.

In particular, for the second time this year, Big Oil's biggest executives were on Capitol Hill in recent days getting pummeled by many in Congress for their record profits while Americans struggle with record fuel prices.

"Where is the corporate conscience?" Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., asked the top executives of the five largest U.S. oil companies.

■ ■ ■

Soaring gas prices have led to cries for a variety of answers, from Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain's suggestion to suspend the federal gas tax this summer to President Bush's call to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and some offshore waters that are now off limits to oil development.

Others have suggested a windfall profits tax on oil companies, although some economists say that might actually hurt supply. Oil companies say they're not to blame for spiking fuel prices, and their earnings, measured against revenue, are in line with other industries.

On top of that, rising oil prices have sharply cut profit margins for refining, and that hits the major oil companies—which both pump oil and refine it for use as gasoline.

A giant like Exxon Mobil can handle the blow. Its refining and marketing profits for the first quarter were down 39 percent from a year ago, but Exxon still banked a nearly \$11 billion profit because of the hefty prices earned on crude it pumped out



AP

A driver fills his car with fuel at a petrol station in Manchester, England, Thursday, May 22, 2008.

of the ground.

Smaller refiners aren't so fortunate. Sunoco Inc.'s refining and supply business lost \$123 million in the first quarter, hurt by lower margins. Tesoro Corp. lost \$82 million for the same period.

In any case, huge profits at big oil companies like Exxon Mobil and Chevron aren't because of high prices at the pump. Their massive profits are tied to their exploration and production arms, which are benefiting from record crude prices.

Higher crude costs also have squeezed profits at the refining arms of companies like ConocoPhillips, which don't produce enough crude themselves to refine at full capacity without buying more oil from other producers.

CEO Jim Mulva said ConocoPhillips, the second-largest U.S. refiner behind Valero Energy Corp., buys about 2 million barrels of crude a day at market

prices to refine into gasoline and other products.

"If oil costs us \$30 a barrel or \$40 a barrel or \$120 a barrel, that's why the cost of gasoline is what it is," he said. "It's not because of taxes. It's not because of ... refining and distribution. It's because of the cost of oil."

■ ■ ■

But it's not only about the price of oil. Other costs are a factor—though they've remained relatively stable.

For example, federal and state taxes added 40 cents to a gallon of gas in the first three months of this year, roughly the same amount as they added four years ago.

California's 63.9 cents of tax is the nation's highest, Alaska's 26.4 cents the lowest. How the money is used varies from state to state, though the federal take helps to build and maintain highways and bridges.

Marketing and distribution costs—the tab for delivering gasoline from refiner to retail-

er—were 27 cents to start the year, only 6 cents above the cost four years ago.

The cost of refining added 27 cents to a gallon in the first quarter of this year, a nickel less than what it added in 2004, according to the Energy Information Administration.

That refining occurs at sprawling industrial complexes across the U.S., with most of the biggest along the Gulf Coast. Barrels of crude arrive each day by pipeline, ship and barge. The refineries, by heating, treating and blending the raw oil, turn out products like diesel and lubricating oil.

And, of course, gasoline.

■ ■ ■

What happens when that gasoline makes its way to your neighborhood gas station?

Major oil companies own fewer than 5 percent of gas stations. Most are owned by small retailers—and many of them say they're struggling these

days to turn a profit on gas. That's because wholesale gasoline prices have risen sharply in recent months—again, blame it on crude—but station owners have been unable to raise pump prices fast enough to keep pace.

And you can't keep jacking up the price when drivers are buying less.

Gas station owners face a balancing act: They must try to maintain a price that allows them to afford the next shipment of gasoline but not give the competition an edge.

Stations pay tens of thousands of dollars for each gas shipment before they see a cent in the register. Eventually, many make only a few cents on a gallon of gasoline, a margin that can disappear altogether when credit card fees are added in.

Thank goodness for beef jerky and sodas.

Most gasoline retailers long ago got past any illusion they can make money by selling gas. They rely on gas sales to drive traffic to their shops, where they hope auto repairs or food and drink sales will help them turn a profit.

"You're always out there competing with the guy next door—literally with the guy across the street—and worried too about how you're going to pay for your next supply," said Rayola Dougher, a senior economic adviser at the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's trade association.

In the Philadelphia suburb of Havertown, Pa., earlier in the week, Sunoco station operator Steve Kehler received a load of gasoline—9,000 gallons—which, at a wholesale price of \$3.729 a gallon, cost him 4 cents more than the previous load.

That left him in a sticky situation: Should he raise prices right away to recoup some of his higher gasoline expenses,

or should he hold off for a couple of days in hopes his competitors will also have to raise their prices?

"I'm surrounded by \$3.89's, and I'm already at \$3.91," said Kehler, referring to his prices and those of some nearby competitors. "I'm going to play a little waiting game right now."

The \$33,600 Kehler must pay for his overnight gasoline delivery won't be debited from his bank account for a few days. That gives him a little breathing room, time to hold prices steady. Hiking prices too quickly will hurt sales.

"I'll probably change it tomorrow night, at closing," Kehler said. "I'll go up 4 cents."

That will put Kehler at a gross margin of about 20 cents a gallon. After paying credit card fees, labor and rent, Kehler will be lucky to break even on his gasoline sales.

But many times, he loses money selling gas. Kehler, like most other service station operators, relies entirely upon his car repair business for income.

Of course, the plight of retailers is little consolation for drivers.

Mayra Perez said she works two fast-food jobs to help support her family, and gasoline is becoming harder to afford. She said perhaps the government should step in to help ease the burden, possibly by placing price limits on gasoline.

She was filling the tank of her compact car in Miami this past week to the tune of \$3.89 per gallon for regular gas.

"This is horrible," she said. "On the weekend, my husband and I use only one car to save on gas."

"But then there's the cost of food, milk, eggs, the rent."

AP Business Writer Adrian Sainz in Miami contributed to this story.

Ex-boy soldier back in Sierra Leone



In this Jan. 30, 2008 file photo, Ishmael Beah from Sierra Leone, author of the book 'A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier' chats to his fan during a book signing at Brunel University in west London.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—Author Ishmael Beah disputed reports that his best-selling 2007 memoir about serving as a child soldier in Sierra Leone contained inconsistencies.

Beah, speaking with The Associated Press during his first trip back to Sierra Leone since the book was published, defended his version of events in "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," saying his memoir is based on personal recollection and is not a historical account.

"I decided to write because I wanted to shed light on this experience from my own personal point of view. I never claimed I was going to write a history of the war," he said in an interview Tuesday. "Only Ishmael Beah can tell his experience. I wrote the memoirs based on my ex-

perience as far as my memory could remember."

Beah's memoir was hailed as a landmark in wartime writing—but some are skeptical, questioning how the 27-year-old is able to recall incidents that happened a decade earlier when, according to his own account, he was often high on drugs.

A report in The Australian newspaper cited residents near Mattru Jong, not far from Beah's native village, as saying a major battle described in the book took place in 1995, two years later than the author's account. The newspaper cited locals who said Beah could not have been a soldier in 1993 because he was still in school.

Although no one is questioning that Beah witnessed the horrors of Sierra Leone's civil war, the revised timeline would mean

that he was significantly older—nearly 15 instead of 12—when he was conscripted, altering the balance of a book praised for offering an unprecedented window into the world of a child soldier.

Beah said he had already left school in 1993. He said "the major attack on Mattru Jong took place in 1995, but there were other attacks in 1993."

Many memoirs published in recent years have included disclaimers specifically because memory is fallible. Beah's book does not include one, which opened him to criticism. He acknowledges the book is based on his memory of events and that there is little proof to back it up.

"It was not like I was going through the war and thinking then that I was going to write a book and record evidence for production," he said.

Police dog defeats nearly 2 dozen others in contest

By JONATHAN MUMMOLO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Criminals can't hide from Justice. He'll fight tooth and nail to keep you safe: chasing down suspects, finding hidden narcotics—even summoning the willpower to avoid tasty treats when in hot pursuit.

He's Fairfax County, Va.'s Finest ... in fur. And he and his partner smoked the competition from three states in the annual Virginia Police Canine Association Iron Dog Competition, held this year in The Plains.

Justice, a 5-year-old German shepherd, is this year's Iron Dog.

"Some of the guys were mak-

speed, agility and the ability to avoid distractions (such as food) while working. Competing Wednesday were 24 pairs of officers and their dogs from West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. The average overall time for the 1.25-mile course was more than 14 minutes. Justice finished in less than nine.

"He's got a lot of drive to him," a proud Gubesch said this week.

Given Justice's performance on the street, it's no surprise he took the gold.

This week, he and Gubesch found a burglary suspect in a house in the Franconia area. The suspect had hidden underneath a chair, Gubesch said. Within

At the end of his shift, he goes home to his family—which is also Gubesch's. His favorite treat? Whatever Gubesch's wife buys from Costco. When the lights go out, Justice sleeps at the foot of his partner's bed.

Gubesch said he and Justice have had "a lot of luck lately ... with narcotics." But a brief demonstration suggested it was more than luck.

Without giving Justice a chance to smell it, another officer hid a set of keys in the grass while Justice sat quietly, seeming to pay no mind. But with a quick command, the tail-wagging sleuth sprang to his feet, thrust his dark snout within



Justice, a 5-year-old German shepherd, is this year's Iron Dog. He and his partner, Pfc. Mike Gubesch, smoked the competition from West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia in the annual Virginia Police Canine Association Iron Dog Competition, held this year in The Plains.

ing the joke that they want them tested for steroids—both of them," Manassas Master Police Officer Bryant Arrington, one of the event's organizers, said of Justice and his handler, Pfc. Mike Gubesch.

"It's just unreal," Arrington said. "We say his dog's nuclear-powered."

The association's largest competition tested skills such as

minutes, Justice had the man's jacket in his teeth, another successful collar.

And, per Justice's training to bite and hold, "there was no injury on this guy at all," said Gubesch.

In many ways, Justice is just another officer on the force. One of 13 patrol and narcotics dogs in the department, he rides in the squad car with Gubesch on 10-hour shifts four days a week.

a centimeter of the ground and began gliding down the sidewalk, over to the lawn, searching for any trace of human scent or crushed vegetation.

Within seconds, he had the keys. His reward? A rub on the head and encouraging words, Gubesch's preferred method of training. "Our dogs get rewarded with praise," said Camille Neville, a police spokeswoman.

Madonna to show film at Michael Moore's festival

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Madonna's new film on the impoverished nation of Malawi has wowed another maker of documentaries: Michael Moore.

Moore announced Thursday that Madonna, like himself a Michigan native, will appear for a screening of "I Am Because We Are" during the Traverse City Film Festival on Aug. 2.

"She's sort of entered my realm," Moore said. "When I saw it, I thought, 'Wow, it's like she's been making these films for years.'"

Madonna produced and narrated the documentary after traveling to Malawi, where she met the toddler David Banda. She and husband Guy Ritchie are adopting the child.

"I Am Because We Are" illustrates the poverty that children of the southern African country face, how the AIDS crisis is claiming lives, and the conditions that cause disease and other misery there. But the film urges people to volunteer and tries to offer hope.

"She takes the viewer through a very personal journey and tries to connect us, living here in the U.S., giving us a window into the way it is for other people in the world," Moore said. "You're extremely moved when you watch it. You understand very clearly why she's devoted so much of her life to the people of Malawi."

Moore said he was "outraged" by the criticism Madonna received for her efforts to adopt David. Some children's rights groups said it would be better to provide more resources so children could remain in their native countries. Others accused her of using her celebrity status to circumvent Malawian adoption laws, which she denied.

"As one who has seen what the yellow press can and does do, all of that was just one more reminder to me of just how dishonest so much of the media is in this country," Moore said.

"I am very excited to come to Michigan to show my film," Madonna said in an e-mail Friday to The Associated Press. "The film is a labor of love and I am happy that I can bring it home to my roots with the help of Michael."

"I am also honored that the film will be screening at this particular festival arranged by Michael as he is a genius and I am a huge fan."

Moore, who won the Academy Award in 2002 for "Bowling for Columbine," said he saw an early version of Madonna's film in London while shooting scenes for his latest documentary, "Sicko."

After watching the finished product about a month ago, he asked Madonna for permission to screen it during the festival in Traverse City, his adopted hometown about 250 miles northwest of Detroit. Moore established the festival in 2005 with local author Doug Stanton and photographer John Robert Williams.

"She said she'd be thrilled to come here and be part of the film festival," Moore said. "We were pleasantly surprised."

Madonna, born in Bay City and raised to the south near Detroit, recently released a new album, "Hard Candy," and is preparing for a worldwide tour that begins in August. She'll take a one-day break from rehearsals to visit Traverse City.

The film will be shown in a downtown theater that seats 540. After the film is shown, Madonna will take questions from the audience, Moore said.



Madonna arrives onto the stage during the amfAR's annual Cinema Against AIDS 2008 benefit in Mougins, southern France, Thursday, May 22, 2008.

KILKENNY, Ireland (AP) — “Forget his face? Of course I don’t,” Sam Baker sings, of a young German boy who died along with his parents on a train in Peru in 1986.

The three had been sitting on facing seats and the bomb that killed them was in the luggage rack above their heads, set by Shining Path guerrillas.

The man in the fourth seat was Baker.

The song probes the psychological legacy for Baker, who had been talking to the boy before the bomb went off. Its title, “Broken Fingers,” reveals part of the physical legacy—three twisted, unusable fingers that forced him to relearn to play the guitar left-handed.

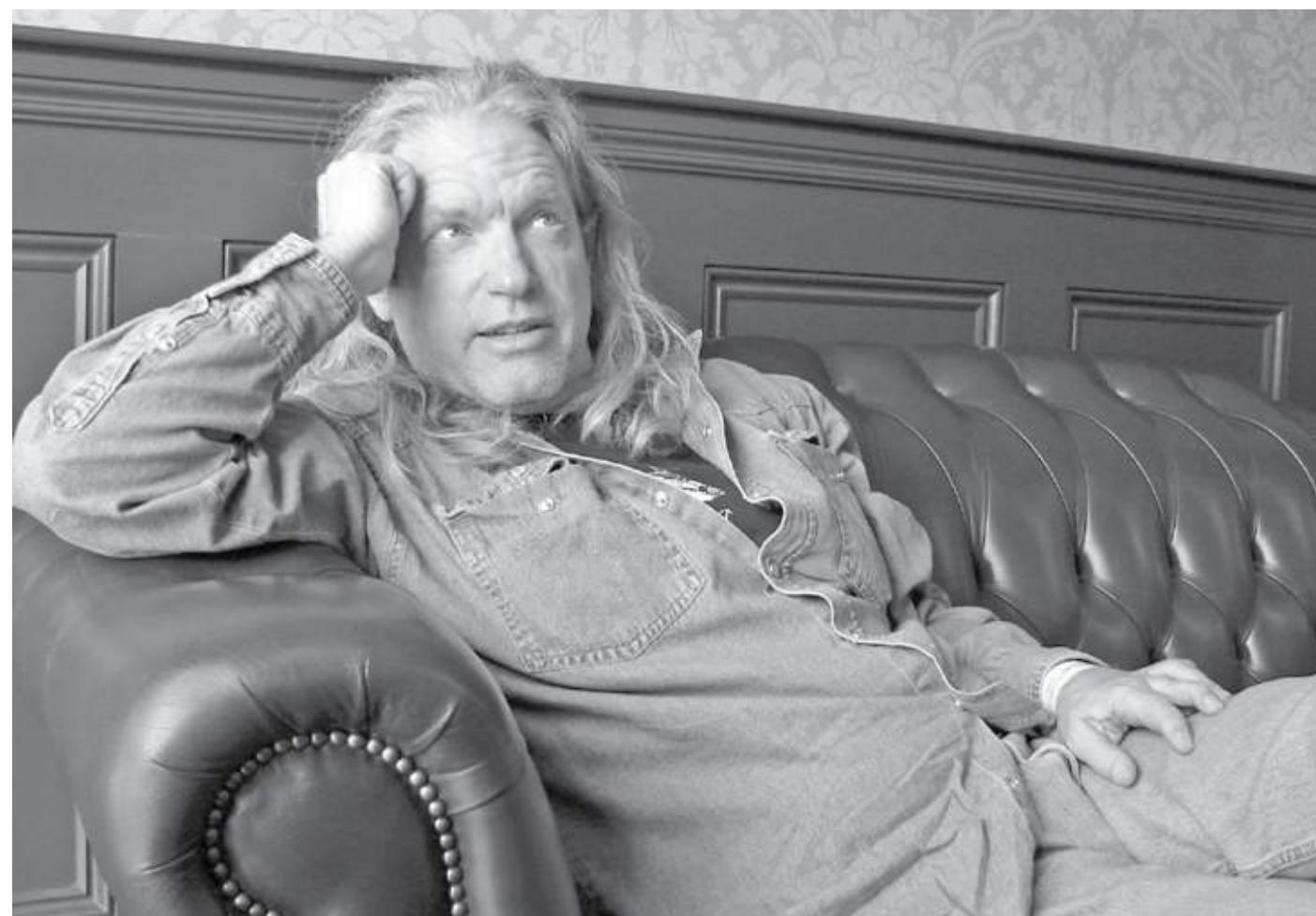
That he survived at all is remarkable: The explosion severed the main artery and vein in his left thigh and he almost bled to death. He suffered brain damage, kidney failure, gangrene and severe hearing loss, and went through years of surgery.

Perhaps the most extraordinary part of Baker’s story: He is making a name for himself as one of the most original new singer-songwriters in contemporary folk music.

Before the bombing, the native of Itasca, Texas, had been a white-water river guide who enjoyed traveling, walking and climbing. That all ended in a moment.

“Every day for a long time was like being in some kind of fog. There was a reasonable amount of pain and a lack of clarity and a whole lot of pain meds, and because my hands were bandaged I couldn’t really feel anything, couldn’t walk and couldn’t really hear much. There was a sense of isolation,” said Baker, 54, in an interview in a hotel in Kilkenny, where he was appearing at a music festival.

Becoming a singer-songwriter was not the obvious career choice for a man with mangled fingers, partial deafness, balance problems, brain damage that sometimes leaves him struggling for the right word, and a constant ringing in his head—the



songs are short films playing in his head. It doesn’t exclude the audience though; you are drawn in to these tightly sketched dramas by the imagery, the broken vocal and most importantly for the initial listeners, the sympathetic musical backing,” said David Cowling in a review of “Pretty World” for the Web site Americana UK.

The success of Baker’s strongly Texas-oriented music in Europe has led to Baker spending long periods of time here in recent months. His two shows at the Kilkenny Rhythm and Roots Festival were sellouts.

He returns to North America to play the Woody Guthrie Festival in Oklahoma and the Calgary Folk Festival before returning to Europe in August to headline an Americana festival, followed by a more extensive tour of Britain, France and the Netherlands.

The future, he says, is something that will work itself out, and although he’s written more than enough new songs, the next album is not yet in the works.

“I have lots of material so I have to get it in a place where once again we might expect all those people at the same pub on a Wednesday night. I will know when the time is right. The characters sort of let me know when they need to be voiced, how they want their stories to come out,” he says.

Asked to describe himself, Baker says simply that he is “pretty happy.”

And though he doesn’t deny that his music comes from one moment, on a train in Peru more than 20 years ago, he says fundamentally he is no different from anyone else.

“I think in many ways everybody is a survivor, it’s just a little bit more obvious in my case.”

“Everybody has been knocked back, and for the most part, you know what people do? They keep going,” he says. “And most people do it with grace and humor and goodwill and a spirit of generosity. Those are the people at the pub.”

Singer Sam Baker is interviewed in Kilkenny, Ireland on Saturday May 3, 2008.

By NAOMI KOPPEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Texas singer seeks to understand a tragedy

thing he says that has been the hardest to deal with.

Baker’s spare storytelling is delivered in a rasping voice. He describes himself as “the worst guitarist who ever stood on a public stage,” and requests from the audience have to be relayed by those in the front rows because he can’t hear anything shouted from further back.

But creating music was not, he says, a choice.

“For a long time I wanted to understand what had happened and what had happened to those I was sitting around and be able to write that in a way that made sense to me, so I could clear up that moment

of chaos and fear,” he said.

“While I was doing that, melodies would come and they would be like a cardinal, a very bright red bird that flies against the window, saying, ‘Pay attention to me. Pay attention to the melody. Look at my red wings, listen to the melody.’ I don’t think I could ignore it.”

Although Baker, who’s now based in Austin, Texas, has written directly about his experiences, most of his songs are about other lives: a man finds himself alone after 50 years of marriage; an abandoned woman with two babies drives the interstate; another woman spends her time playing slot machines; the son

of a Texas oil baron lives a privileged but ultimately ruined life.

“All those people and all those sounds, it’s like a village or a small town, they all come from the same place. They might all end up at the same pub on a Wednesday night,” Baker says.

“Where I move into someone else’s world, I think that probably came from those days of not being able to move,” he says.

“If you are in a hospital, especially in the ICU, there is so much drama and it is a profound drama, it’s life and death. People are wheeled in and then people are wheeled out. While I was in that place I think I absorbed a lot more than I prob-

ably can articulate.”

Baker made his first album, “Mercy,” in 2004 as an attempt to “do one good piece of art.” It received no promotion, but was heard and played by some radio stations in Texas.

Then a copy made its way to influential British disc jockey Bob Harris, who played it on his national radio show. The reaction was almost immediate. Baker tells how he woke up one morning and found that his CDs had sold out. He made a second album, “Pretty World,” in 2007.

“His vocals are halting, spoken like he is singing to himself with no mind for the audience, this is a private dialog, the



Hip-hop pioneer ‘Slick Rick’ gets full pardon

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Pioneering rapper Ricky “Slick Rick” Walters, who spent more than five years in prison on a 1991 attempted murder conviction and faced threats of deportation years after rehabilitating his life, was granted a full and unconditional pardon Friday by New York Gov. David Paterson.

Walters, 43, has been under threat of being sent back to his native United Kingdom, although he has lived in the United States since he was a child. In a statement, he expressed gratitude to Paterson and his lawyers, and hoped that he could finally put the turmoil behind him.

“This has been a long and

In this Nov. 4, 2004 file photo, Slick Rick arrives for Sean “P. Diddy” Combs’ 35th birthday celebration in New York.

AP

difficult road and I am happy for this to be settled once and for all,” Walters said. “I look forward to enjoying this time with my family and friends and to continue leading an honest and productive life.”

In announcing the decision, Paterson noted Walters’ commitment to helping young people.

The eye patch-wearing star behind ‘80s rap classics like “La-Di-Da-Di” and “Children’s Story” was a successful rapper when he was convicted of shooting his cousin and another man in 1991. Both survived.

Although he had completed probation requirements in the attempted murder case and resumed his musical career, he was arrested again in June 2002. Immigration agents stopped him after he returned to Miami from a weeklong Ca-

ribbean cruise where he was a featured performer.

The arrest was on a 1997 Immigration and Naturalization Service warrant that had not been pursued earlier, and he spent 17 months in jail, despite calls for Walters’ release from such luminaries as the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Will Smith and Chris Rock.

A federal judge eventually ruled in October 2003 that the Bureau of Immigration Appeals denied Walters’ due process when it issued the warrant, but Homeland Security officials pressed forward in the case. In 2006, Walters told The Associated Press he was simply going to keep working and play out his appeals.

“If you were in my shoes, how would you look at life?” he said then. “You’d ride life out, too. Anger would just

make life not enjoyable, you know what I mean?”

The Democratic governor noted that Walters is now a rap artist and landlord in the Bronx who has not had any other criminal problems since his release from prison and has volunteered at youth outreach programs to counsel against violence.

“Mr. Walters has fully served the sentence imposed upon him for his convictions, had an exemplary disciplinary record while in prison and on parole, and has been living without incident in the community for more than 10 years,” Paterson said. “I urge federal immigration officials to once again grant Mr. Walters relief from deportation, so that he is not separated from his many family members who are United States citizens, including his two teenage children.”

Madonna lip gloss auctioned at AIDS benefit

MOUGINS, France (AP)—The Material Girl parted with a few personal possessions—a custom-made white guitar and the contents of her handbag—at a benefit to raise money for AIDS research.

Madonna emptied her purse and came up with a magnifying mirror, hair clips, skin blotting tissues and lip gloss. She put it on the block along with a one-of-a-kind diamond-encrusted alligator bag donated by Chanel. The lot sold for \$472,000.

The 49-year-old singer asked the crowd not to insult her with low bids: "This lip gloss touched my lips."

The benefit on the sidelines of the Cannes Film Festival late Thursday raised more than \$10 million for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), a record for the annual event.

Mary J. Blige sang "Family Affair" and an R&B edition of U2's "One." Burlesque dancer Dita Von Teese shed her silk stockings in a slinky strip routine. As usual, Sharon Stone played auctioneer.

Stone tried to get the crowd to bid for a kiss with Madonna, reminding everyone that George Clooney sold two kisses last year for a total of \$700,000.



Madonna and American actress Sharon Stone auction off a bag during the amfAR's annual Cinema Against AIDS 2008 benefit in Mougins, southern France, Thursday, May 22, 2008.

"That's cheap!" Madonna quipped. "Everyone's kissed George Clooney."

Madonna said she wouldn't give away a kiss for less than \$1 million. Instead, she offered to serenade two fans backstage during her next concert tour in the city of their choice.

As bidding took off, Madonna prodded the crowd along, saying "Don't humiliate me!" and "People have offered me millions to play at their bar mitzvahs." The package sold \$550,000.

Madonna's white Gibson acoustic guitar, which she used on her "Confessions" tour, sold separately for \$472,000.

The auction started off with Stone pledging \$100,000 for pediatric AIDS research and asking others to do the same. Within minutes, amfAR raised \$2 million, with bidders including Roberto Cavalli, Tommy Hilfiger, Valentino, Milla Jovovich and Michelle Yeoh.

The "Basic Instinct" star also sold her red 1976 vintage

Porsche 911 Targa, which she restored to its original luster after it was stolen and recovered. It sold for \$786,000.

Sean "Diddy" Combs offered to let a fan spend 24 hours in his presence, and Von Teese put a private strip-tease on the block. Both went for their minimum bids—\$314,000 for Combs and \$77,000 for Von Teese.

The event was held at the Moulin de Mougins outside Cannes.

Morton, Watson share screen time

CANNES, France (AP)—Samantha Morton says people sometimes confuse her with fellow British actress Emily Watson. Fans will be even more confused after seeing their first film together.

Morton, 31, and Watson, 41, co-star as variations of the same character in "Synecdoche, New York," which premiered Friday at the Cannes Film Festival.

"It's really weird. Over the years, I've been in situations where people ... have mistaken me for her" or complimented her for "Breaking the Waves," Morton said.

"And I went, 'Oh, I wish,'" she said of the 1996 film that gave Watson her breakthrough role and earned her an Academy Award nomination. "And apparently, she's had a similar thing herself with me, so the casting was incredible."

Morton, an Oscar nominee for "Sweet and Lowdown" and "In America," plays an assistant who has a lifelong flirtation with a theater director (Philip Seymour Hoffman) in "Synecdoche," the directing debut of screenwriter Charlie Kaufman ("Being John Malkovich").

Watson, who wasn't at a news conference with other cast and crew, co-stars as an actress cast to play Morton's character in the director's theatrical re-creation of the world at large, which includes a massive New York City set built inside warehouses.



In this image released by MyNetworkTV, Dallas Cowboys football player Terrell Owens, left, is shown shaking hands with actor Kelly Perine, who plays Walter Hill, on the set of MyNetworkTV's new sitcom, "Under One Roof" starring Flavor Flav, right, on April 15, 2008, in Vancouver. Owens will star as Sean Hill, brother to Flavor Flav's character Calvester Hill, airing Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

Terrell Owens ready for more TV jobs

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Fresh off his first sitcom role, Terrell Owens is ready to take on more television jobs. Just don't look for one of them to be on "Dancing With the Stars."

"They asked me to do that last year and I graciously declined," Owens said. "I don't need to get on national TV to show people I can dance. I do that 16, 17 weeks out of the year. I've been doing it all my career."

Owens said he'll save his ballroom dancing skills until he gets married, whenever that may be. He added that he hasn't

watched the ABC dancing show, skipping out on NFL star Jason Taylor this season and previous years featuring former Cowboys great Emmitt Smith and Owens' former teammate Jerry Rice.

Besides, he's more of a sitcom guy, as evidenced by his recent gig on "Under One Roof."

He was so giddy to watch it—and, perhaps, so motivated to help the ratings—that he turned on every television in his house.

"I thought I was going to see something different (on different TVs)," he said, laughing.

ing. "I had some friends over watching it. Everybody said I did pretty good."

Those words were hardly out of T.O.'s mouth when teammate Tank Johnson walked by and mockingly shot back one of Owens' lines, an indication he was tuned in, too.

"I think I surprised a lot of people with my performance," Owens said. "For me, I feel like I can act. That's what I want to do. If I wasn't really comfortable with it and didn't think I could really do it, then I wouldn't have done it."

Defense wants reporter to testify in rapper trial

CHICAGO (AP)—A judge says Chicago Sun-Times lawyers have a week to respond to a motion asking for a reporter to testify at rapper R. Kelly's child pornography trial.

The defense wants to call Jim DeRogatis (Day-roh-GAH-tus) to ask how he got a sex tape in 2002 that's now the center of the trial.

Defense attorneys also want to know if DeRogatis copied the videotape. A lawyer for the Sun-Times says DeRogatis' actions should be privileged under the First Amendment.

The judge says he'll make a ruling May 30th.

Kelly has pleaded not guilty to the charges.



DeRogatis

Husband holds hostage wife's diary of teenage memories

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Robby," and I are having an argument about my teenage diary. About seven years ago, I discovered that Robby had been keeping a lot of photos and letters from his exes in boxes. I wanted him to throw them out and have continued to press the subject. His excuse has been that he "doesn't have time."

Last week when I brought it up, Robby went into our bedroom, took out my old diary and said it was the same thing as the box of letters. He insisted I should throw it out because it contains entries about exes and sexual experiences. I don't think it's the same thing. Robby took it anyway.

I am heartsick that I no longer have my diary. I don't know how to make Robby understand that the book is a part of me. I don't keep it to read about my exes. I keep it for the information about family members, friends and the thoughts I recorded as a teenager. Abby, I kept that diary from my freshman year of high school until the first weeks I started dating Robby.

What can I do?

SENTIMENTAL IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR SENTIMENTAL: The first thing to do is recognize that your husband has a valid point. Next, offer to declare a truce on the subject of mementos of times gone by. Then ask him to return your diary.

P.S. If Robby has already disposed of it, then his photos and letters should go, too. However, I have a hunch he is still holding onto it and is trying to teach you a lesson in fairness.



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: What do you do when someone is just plain rude? I'm talking about someone who cuts in front of you in line, or someone who says something nasty about you, not knowing that his voice carried to you?

ADVOCATE FOR KINDNESS

DEAR KINDNESS ADVOCATE: When someone cuts in front of you in line, you have two choices: passively accept the situation, or speak up and tell the person firmly, but politely, that you were there first, and the line starts in the rear.

If someone says something nasty about you within earshot, you have two choices: ignore the boor, or say, "I heard that!" I recommend the former.

• • •

DEAR ABBY: Two weeks ago, while we were sitting in church, my partner, "Roy," began chatting with someone seated next to him. At one point, the person reached out and patted the top of Roy's thigh. Later, Roy and I discussed whether this gesture could be considered flirting—or was it like a pat on the back.

A few days ago, I was shocked to see my own mother do the same thing to a married male friend. Is this an appropriate gesture, or does it depend on the level of friendship or location on the thigh?

TAKEN ABACK IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Some people are "touchers" and mean nothing more by it than establishing contact when they reach out. Others are lechers. Much depends upon who is doing the touching, and who is doing the interpreting.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Letter Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

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- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

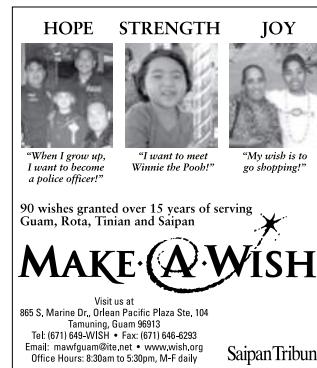
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: College level preferred with degree in Industrial Electrician, plus 4 years experience in Industrial, possibly power control electrician. Applicants may be required to take the test as part of the application process. U.S. citizen, I.R. citizen, or contract worker may apply. Interested person may contact Triple L Corporation at (670) 322-6183.

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Kobe, Lakers thump Spurs 101-71; lead series 2-0



LOS ANGELES (AP)—There would be no blown lead in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals. Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers saw to that. Bryant scored 22 points, Lamar Odom added 20 points and 12 rebounds, and the Lakers took command late in the second quarter to rout San Antonio 101-71 Friday night for a 2-0 lead over the Spurs.

Games 3 and 4 in the best-of-seven series will be played in San Antonio, where the defending NBA champion Spurs have a 6-0 record in the post-season and have won 20 of their last 22 games.

Only 14 of the 222 teams to fall behind 2-0 in best-of-seven NBA playoff series have come back to win, including the Spurs in their second-round matchup with the New Orleans Hornets. But this figures to be a much tougher assignment—San Antonio has to be perfect at home and win a game at Staples Center, where the Lakers are 7-0 in the postseason and have won 13 straight.

“The old adage is you just won the games on your home court, which is the important part, and extended the series to six games,” Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. “We know that. Now, nothing happens until we win on their court. And someone wins on the other team’s court.”

The Lakers had to rally from a 20-point third-quarter deficit to win the opener 89-85, and didn’t take their first lead in that game until the final 3 minutes.

They never trailed in Game 2—the third time in their last four playoff games that happened. After a basket by Tim Duncan enabled the Spurs to forge the only tie, the Lakers scored the final nine points of the second quarter for a 46-37 halftime lead.

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Phil Mickelson is carrying five different wedges in his bag at the Crowne Plaza Invitational. He’s used every one of them—very effectively.

Along with his putter.

Mickelson had 11 one-putts and converted all six sand saves in a 2-under 68 in the second round Friday to take the lead at 7-under 133. The world’s No. 2-ranked player led Matt Kuchar (64), Brian Gay (65) and Johnson Wagner (71) by one stroke.

“It was probably the best putting round I’ve had all year,” said Mickelson, who needed only 25 putts.

That’s because Mickelson kept setting himself up with the short clubs. From the fairways, the rough and the bunkers.

Only four of his one-putts were 9 feet or longer (the longest was 18 feet). Three of



DA: Barkley's gambling debt paid, case closed

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Clark County prosecutor says Charles Barkley is off the legal hook and the case on his \$400,000 gambling debt is closed.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Bernie Zadrowski said on Friday that the retired NBA star sent a \$40,000 check to pay statutory and bad check processing fees.

It was 74-57 entering the fourth quarter, and the Lakers made it a blowout by outscoring the Spurs 14-3 to begin the final period to make it 88-60. Reserves played the rest of the way for both teams.

“I think they had an off-night,” Jackson said. “I think they had some tired legs and I think that’s what happens sometimes. You get to playing a lot of playoff games back to back, we’re every other day in this situation. Kind of crept up on them, perhaps.”

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich agreed to some extent, saying: “I think being out of gas had somewhat of an effect, but not as much as the good play of the Lakers. We definitely have to have more people playing better to get this done.”

Jackson said he expected the Spurs to be a much different team Sunday night in Game 3.

“Oh, without a doubt,” he said, perhaps mindful of the fact that the Spurs were blown out in the first two games at New Orleans before turning that series around.

Jordan Farmar scored a career playoff high 14 points, Derek Fisher added 11 points, and Pau Gasol had 10 points and seven rebounds for the Lakers, who shot 54.9 percent to San Antonio’s 34.5 percent and out-

rebounded the Spurs 44-36.

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 13 points and four assists. Duncan was the only other San Antonio player in double figures with 12 points and 16 rebounds. Manu Ginobili was ineffective again, shooting 2-for-8 and scoring seven points. He shot 3-for-13 and scored 13 in the opener.

Ginobili, who had started San Antonio’s previous six post-season games, was used in a reserve role, as was the case most of the season when he won the NBA’s Sixth Man of the Year award. It didn’t make any difference.

“There was some thought of shutting him down for the game,” Popovich said.

Ginobili has been hampered by an injured finger and a sprained ankle.

Bryant, who had only two points at halftime of Game 1, was more aggressive from the start Friday night, shooting 6-for-11 and scoring 13 in the opening 24 minutes. The Lakers shot 54.3 percent to San Antonio’s 34.8 percent in the first half and the Spurs went 2-of-7 from the foul line, with Duncan misfiring on all four of his attempts.

Bryant had eight points and Fisher added seven to help the Lakers take a 21-16 first-quarter lead. Fisher scored only four points in the opener.

Los Angeles Lakers’ Pau Gasol, left, of Spain, scores over San Antonio Spurs’ Tim Duncan during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA Western Conference basketball finals in Los Angeles, Friday, May 23, 2008.

San Antonio would get no closer.

The Lakers had reason to be leery as the second half began, considering the Spurs

outscored them 14-2 to begin the third quarter in Game 1 for a 65-45 lead before the Lakers stormed back.

But Bryant scored seven

points in the first 2 minutes of the third period and Odom added seven more during a 20-10 run that gave the Lakers a 66-48 lead.

points in the first 2 minutes of the third period and Odom added seven more during a 20-10 run that gave the Lakers a 66-48 lead.

Mickelson wedges into lead at Colonial

those came at Nos. 3-5, the trio of holes known as Colonial’s “horrible horseshoe” because of the difficulty and layout of that stretch, where he hit his approach into greenside bunkers each time and saved par. That was part of his final nine holes.

“Those putts kept the round going,” Mickelson said. “When I got through those holes, I thought I could get a couple of birdies coming in. I had a couple of good chances.”

Mickelson didn’t lower his score after that, missing a 6-foot birdie on No. 7 before his short approach at No. 9 bounced over the hole and he slid an 8-footer just past. But the 2000 Colonial champion, here for the first time

in three years, still stayed alone at the top of the leaderboard.

Wagner, the first-round leader by two strokes, got a birdie on his second hole, the 611-yard 11th. But he needed three shots from 27 feet for bogey at the par-3 13th and had double bogey after hitting his approach at No. 15 into a water canal.

There were no more miscues, but only one more birdie.

Gay had a bogey-free round, including a 46-foot blast out of the bunker at the 171-yard 13th that was the first of his three birdies over the last six holes.

Kuchar, whose only victory on the PGA Tour came in 2002, started his round with four straight birdies. He opened

with a 25-foot putt before a pair of 31-footers.

“Seeing a putt go in on the first hole gets you off on the right foot,” said Kuchar, who had 26 putts and only one bogey. “It’s awfully fun to see the ball fall in the hole.”

To make room for an extra wedge, Mickelson hasn’t carried a 3-wood at tree-lined Hogan’s Alley, the old-style 7,054-yard layout that is pretty much the same as it was when Ben Hogan won there five times from 1946-59.

“This is a tournament where I’ll hit a lot of drives, a lot more drivers than I thought I was going to hit in an effort to get it down there and make some birdies,” Mickelson said. “I’ve used every wedge in my bag each round. I

think the decision is paying off because I’ve given myself more birdie opportunities.”

Mickelson started with two bogeys his first seven holes, flubbing a short chip shot the 448-yard 14th before missing the green and two-putting from 22 feet at the par-3 16th. Three consecutive birdies preceded the “horseshoe.”

The 18-foot birdie at the 433-yard 18th hole got the streak started. Mickelson went into the greenside bunker at the 563-yard, par-5 No. 1 hole, hitting that shot within 5 feet. Then after almost driving the green at No. 2, a 387-yard dogleg-right, he pitched over a bunker to about 5 feet for another birdie to get to 7 under.

Lefty hit from the rough to a

greenside bunker at No. 3, setting up a 12-foot par saver that led him to pump his fist. There were more bunkers, and more fist pumps after saving par with a 9-foot putt at the 252-yard No. 4 and a 12-footer at No. 5.

“It wasn’t anywhere near as tough as it was (Thursday), but my score didn’t reflect it,” said Mickelson, who opened with a 65. “I probably didn’t strike it quite as well as I did (Thursday), but I made up for it with some good putting.”

Geoff Ogilvy, ranked No. 7 in the world, had a stretch of five straight birdies—from Nos. 17-3, all less than 12 feet—on way to his 64 after an opening 72.

“They weren’t crazy putts,” said Ogilvy, whose only bogey came on his 16th hole. “Just the kind of putts guys hole when they shot a 6 under.”



Blue Jays inflict fifth straight loss on struggling Royals



TORONTO
(AP)—The

Toronto Blue Jays beat Kansas City 7-1 in a match-up of the two lowest-scoring teams in the American League on Friday, inflicting the Royals' fifth straight loss.

Starting pitcher Roy Halladay threw his majors-leading fifth complete game to record the win.

The light-hitting Marco Scutaro connected for two-run singles in his first two at-bats, matching a career high with four RBIs.

Yankees 13, Mariners 2

In New York, Andy Pettitte struck out nine batters to win for the first time in over a month as New York beat Seattle.

Shelley Duncan hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and the Yankees put together an eight-run fifth inning to blow the game open.

Mariners manager John McLaren was ejected in the second inning, and Yankees manager Joe Girardi was missing, too, due to a one-game suspension after a similar confrontation with an umpire the previous day.

Rays 2, Orioles 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, pitcher Matt Garza took a four-hitter into the eighth inning as Tampa Bay shut down Baltimore.

Carl Crawford snapped a scoreless tie with a fifth-inning single for the Rays.

The Orioles have been shut out two of the past three games and were 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position. They've been outscored 12-1 during a three-game losing streak and haven't homered in 28 1-3 innings.

AWAY

From Page 28

provement. [You can say] I was surprised he has improved to this level this fast, but I'm not at all surprised he finished first, because of his work ethic, and his talents," he said.

Johnson, for her part, topped the Escape for the third straight year and cemented her reputation as the islands' top woman swimmer. She emerged from the surf with a time of 43:21.

"Sarah again proved to be the top female swimmer in the CNMI, nothing surprises me about her abilities. Since

Twins 9, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Kevin Slowey pitched seven shutout innings as Minnesota upset Detroit.

The Tigers, last in the Central Division after a slow start, scored 30 runs in a three-game sweep of Seattle, but Slowey pushed them back into a slump.

Slowey gave up four hits and three walks in six innings for his first win this season after four losses.

Angels 3, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Los Angeles snapped Chicago's eight-game winning streak.

Angels starter Joe Saunders took a shutout into the ninth inning and Torii Hunter homered in the fifth for the visitors.

Saunders recorded his eighth win, and is emerging as a star after splitting the past two seasons between the majors and minors. He has needed just 10 starts to match last year's win total and moved into a tie with Boston's Daisuke Matsuzaka for the AL lead in victories.

Rangers 13, Indians 9

In Cleveland, the home side lost its seventh in a row and lost pitcher Fausto Carmona to injury against Texas.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit his first career grand slam and the Rangers got seven runs in the third inning when Carmona was replaced after straining his left hip on a fielding play. He will be assessed on a day-to-day basis.

Athletics 8, Red Sox 3

In Oakland, California, Boston's seven-game winning streak came to an end at the hands of Oakland.

Veteran slugger Frank Thom-

as hit a two-run homer to stake pitcher Rich Harden to an early lead and Mark Ellis added a three-run shot.

Harden didn't allow a hit until the fourth on the way to winning back-to-back starts.

Thomas hit the first pitch he saw in the third for his seventh home run, then Ellis hit his fourth homer of the year in the third.

Cubs 12, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Carlos Zambrano had four hits to go with a stellar seven innings of pitching as the Chicago Cubs extended their mastery of the Pittsburgh Pirates with an easy win.

Reed Johnson hit a three-run home run and two doubles for Chicago, which is 9-1 against Central Division rival Pittsburgh this season.

Zambrano gave up only two runs from the mound, and his four hits was the best by a Cubs pitcher since Lew Burdette in 1964. His 4-for-5 for game elevated his batting average to .343—higher than any Pirates batter.

Diamondbacks 11, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Doug Davis marked his first major league start since cancer surgery by giving up only one run in seven innings as Arizona smashed Atlanta.

The Diamondbacks used a five-run first inning to roll past the Braves.

Davis was strong in his first start since an operation to remove a cancerous thyroid gland on April 10. He was declared cancer-free this month.

Giants 8, Marlins 2

In Miami, Barry Zito earned his first win of the season after eight straight losses, leading

San Francisco over Florida and to a third straight victory.

Bengie Molina and Aaron Rowand hit consecutive home runs, and Jose Castillo also connected for the Giants.

Zito allowed just one run in 6 1-3 innings, striking out five and avoiding becoming the first starter in franchise history to begin a season 0-9. A 2002 Cy Young Award winner, Zito has been a bust in San Francisco since signing a \$126 million (€82 million), seven-year contract before last season.

Nationals 5, Brewers 1

In Washington, the home team turned Milwaukee shortstop J.J. Hardy's error into four unearned runs in the sixth inning.

The Nationals sent six men to the plate after Hardy bobbled a routine double-play ball, breaking a 1-1 tie.

Brian Sanches, promoted earlier in the day from minor league Columbus, got a win on his Washington debut, striking out the side while allowing one hit in the sixth.

Astros 4, Phillies 3

In Houston, Jose Valverde earned a save despite getting struck in the face with a line drive as Houston edged Philadelphia.

Hunter Pence hit two homers for the Astros.

Valverde earned his 15th save in 18 chances after Pedro Feliz smacked a liner off his face. Houston's medical staff and infielders rushed to the mound after Valverde was struck, but he hopped up after a few tense minutes.

The closer allowed two runs in an eventful ninth, before Shane Victorino flew out to center.

pure pleasure. The absolute joy of swimming with these kids was a highlight of being here on island," he said. "I hope they had as fun a time as I did. I would look underwater at Kent to from time to time and he'd look at me as if to say 'where's the rays?' while Bryce was the other side of me bumping into, pulling on my leg, goofing around like Nemo."

RGA

From Page 28

part of RGA.

The club hopes that by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

For more information about RGA's new membership policies and other competitions held by the club, contact president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673. (Mark Rabago)

ter with runners on second and third to end it.

Rockies 6, Mets 5, 13 innings

In Denver, Matt Holliday hit a tying homer in the ninth inning, then singled home the winning run in the 13th to rally Colorado past struggling New York.

Mets general manager Omar Minaya voiced support for embattled manager Willie Randolph during the game, but New York lost its fifth straight, leaving it 4-1/2 games off East Division leader Florida.

Reds 3, Padres 2

In San Diego, Adam Dunn's leadoff homer in the ninth inning gave Cincinnati a tense win over San Diego.

Dunn crunched a 3-1 pitch off Major League Baseball's all-time save leader Trevor Hoffman to snap the Reds' four-game losing streak. Dunn's 12th

homer of the season was also the 250th of his career.

Cardinals 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Adam Wainwright outpitched Derek Lowe with seven strong innings as St. Louis edged Los Angeles.

Ryan Ludwick hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals.

Wainwright won for the first time in five starts, allowing only one run while stranding four runners in scoring position. He struck out five, helping the Cardinals win for the fifth time in six games following a bad stretch that had dropped them from first to third in the Central.

St Louis prevailed after a nervous 65-minute rain delay with one out in the bottom of the ninth. Pinch-hitter Andruw Jones struck out with runners at the corners.

Lowe allowed five hits over seven innings, but remained winless in six outings.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	20	.608	—
Tampa Bay	28	20	.583	1 1/2
Baltimore	24	23	.511	5
Toronto	25	25	.500	5 1/2
New York	23	25	.479	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	26	21	.553	—
Minnesota	24	24	.500	2 1/2
Cleveland	22	26	.458	4 1/2
Kansas City	21	27	.438	5 1/2
Detroit	20	28	.417	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	29	21	.580	—
Oakland	26	23	.531	2 1/2
Texas	25	25	.500	4
Seattle	18	31	.367	10 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	27	20	.574	—
Atlanta	26	22	.542	1 1/2
Philadelphia	27	23	.540	1 1/2
New York	22	24	.478	4 1/2
Washington	21	28	.429	7

Central Division

Chicago	29	19	.604	—
St. Louis	29	21	.580	1
Houston	28	22	.560	2
Milwaukee	22	26	.458	7
Pittsburgh	22	26	.458	7
Cincinnati	22	27	.449	7 1/2

West Division

Arizona	29	19	.604	—
Los Angeles	25	22	.532	3 1/2
San Francisco	28	29	.408	9 1/2
Colorado	19	29	.396</td	

The Week in Sports

Spearfishing, PSS softball are week's best



Participants of the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament pose for photographers after full-day of competition last May 17 at the Smiling Cove Marina.



Koblerville Lady Umangs celebrate their win in the Public School System girls' division softball league last May 16 at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



The Dandan Tottot celebrate their win in the Public School System boys' division softball league last May 16 at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



Chris Mizer of the defending champion SaipanCell Patriots, left, runs toward home plate while Hustlers catcher Khobby Kaipat waits for the relay throw in their pennant game last week in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough in action during the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta held over the weekend in the waters of the Saipan Lagoon.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Three boats of the four-team field take a breather during a lull in the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Public School System Fast-pitch Softball League and the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament topped sports headlines this past week.

Dandan and Koblerville won the boys' and girls' elementary school softball championships after beating separate opponents in the finals of the 2008 Public School System Fast-pitch Softball League last May 16 at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The Dandan Tottot squeezed out a thrilling 2-1 win over the San Vicente Canaries in the boys' division, while the Koblerville Umangs coasted to a 15-5 triumph over the Gregorio T. Camacho Binadu in the girls' class.

Guam's Mike Genereaux, meanwhile, was the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament's biggest winner after he topped the individual and total weight categories of the competition held last May 17 in the waters around Saipan.

Forty divers joined the one-day tournament but none was better than Genereaux whose catch

tipped the scales at 47.40 lbs.

In other sports news, Shell Marianas won the Saipan leg of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds, sweeping past their opponents in the weekend tournament held at the Capital Hill Field.

Shell Marianas, composed mostly of the former No Ka Oi team, capped their title sweep with a 10-4 win over Team Sai-Pal in last Sunday's finals.

Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough, meanwhile, kept the brass bat for yet another year after topping the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta held over the weekend in the waters of the Saipan Lagoon.

After a slow start Stearns-McCullough held off the spirited efforts of tandem Ron Smith and Ted Parker, husband-and-wife Tyce and Angie Mister, and Lino Olopai and Amada Rabauliman.

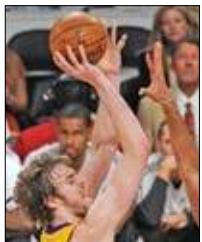
The past week also saw the start of the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League and games played in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League, Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, and the Saipan Little League Baseball Association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam's Mike Genereaux shows off his trophies after winning the individual total weight category then teamed up with Miles Driscoll to place second in the team competition in the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament last May 17 at the Smiling Cove Marina.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMC Proa forward Mark Wallace scored 26 points in his team's 105-95 win over DCCA last Monday at the start of the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League.



Kobe, Lakers thump Spurs 101-71; lead series 2-0

There would be no blown lead in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals. Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers saw to that.

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lester, Sarah are top Escapees

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Lester Lapuz swam the best race of his young career, while Sarah Johnson repeated as champion of the women's division as the 6th Annual Escape from Managaha Island got off without a hitch yesterday.

Unlike the previous years when Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart had to postpone the channel crossing because of bad weather, Mother Nature this time cooperated allowing 49 swimmers to take part in the 2.7-kilometer open water swim.

Thirteen-year-old Lapuz was the best of the bunch, as the Eucon International School student touched the big orange buoy at the American Memorial Park's Micro Beach in 43 minutes flat.

He said he was surprised to be the first to come out of the water, but admitted that topping the Escape is the biggest win of his young swimming career.

Stewart was thrilled with Lapuz's conquest of the Escape and said the young lad is finally realizing a lot of his potential.

"You have to understand Lester has been swimming for less than two years now. However, he has improved so much in the short time of his competitive career, and he has worked for every bit of that im-

See LESTER on Page 26

RGA June qualifier today



The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its June Ace of the Month Qualifying Tournament today, May 25, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the event is 11am with tee off set an hour later at 12pm. As many as 16 players can play in the weekend golf game.

In related news, RGA reminded the public that that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of \$50 to only \$25.

This happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming

See RGA on Page 26



DAN KIMBALL

Lester Lapuz, left, and Sarah Johnson were the first two swimmers to come ashore at the American Memorial Park after taking part in the 6th Annual Escape from Managaha Island held yesterday.

Leong wins May Masters All Events



By MARK RABAGO
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Southpaw Richard Leong topped the All Events of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament that enters its final day today at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Leong ran away with the All Events crown after accumulating 1,998 points in the first two days of the three-day bowling competition.

He rolled a 675 in the singles competition, 700 in the doubles, and 623 in the team to finish with an average of 222 pinfalls per game.

Romy Guevara finished a far second in the All Events with his 1,775 (610 in singles, 570 in doubles, and 595 in the team), while Paul Pangelinan wound up third with his 1,734 (577 in singles, 626 in doubles, and 531 in team).

Leong topped the singles roll-off after putting together a three-game series of 226, 223, and 226 for a

225 average. Robert Talavera came in second with his 204 average built around rolls of 209, 214, and 189. Guevara was third with his 224, 213, and 173 games and 203.33 average.

The two Raymonds—Zapanta and Angeles—were without peer in the doubles as they combined for 1,255 pinfalls, followed by Raul Dumapit and Dannie Robles' 1,227 and Leong and Ador Dimaano's 1,205.

Scores for the men's team event was still not available as of press time.

Gina Sablan, meanwhile, ruled the women's All Events after accumulating 1,642 points on the strength of her 498 pinfalls in singles, 566 in doubles, and 578 in team.

Yho Villavicencio was second with her 1,610 (538 in singles, 570 in doubles, and 502 in team) with Diane Camacho coming in third with her 1,603 (560 in singles, 536 in doubles, and 507 in team).

Rita Palacios was the surprise

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Spearfishing, PSS softball are week's best

The 2008 Public School System Fast-pitch Softball League and the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament topped sports headlines this past week. 27



By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Bowen writes *KidsPost's* sports opinion column and is an author of sports novels for kids.



We can do better than 'best'

Childhood obesity—in other words, kids who weigh way too much—is a big problem in this country.

The statistics are staggering. It is estimated that one-third of kids are overweight or obese. The problem has become much more serious than when your parents were your age. In the early 1970s, about 4 percent of kids ages 6 to 11 were considered obese. Now, almost 20 percent are, according to government reports.

Childhood obesity can cause heart disease, diabetes and other physical conditions that make doing even simple things, such as playing games or climbing stairs, harder. Weighing too much also can shorten a person's life.

For the United States to successfully tackle the problem of childhood obesity, kids and their parents are going to have to do some simple things:

First, eat better. That means more vegetables and fruit, and fewer sweets and junk food. American kids are drinking about four times as much soda as they did 20 years ago. Many teens average four sodas a day. That's crazy. No one needs that much soda. Kids should drink more water or milk.

Get more active. Kids need to turn off the television and their computer games. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study, kids ages 8 to 18 average more than six hours EACH DAY watching TV, playing video games and using computers for fun. Kids spend more time parked in front of a screen than doing anything else other than sleeping.

Because I'm a sports guy, I'll add one more thing that everybody—kids and adults—should do to help combat childhood obesity: Change our attitude toward kids sports.

Now, almost all kids try some kind of sport. But very quickly, lots of them stop playing. Why?

Part of the problem is that we spend so much time identifying the "best" kids in each sport—for travel and all-star teams and, later, high school teams—that the other kids get the message that they should either go home or be content to watch the "best" kids play.

We need to rethink this approach. Success in sports is when millions of kids are playing pickup basketball or soccer or ultimate Frisbee in a park, not when they are watching high-paid superstars on TV.

Getting more and more kids to take part should be the goal of our sports leagues and teams. If we can accomplish that, maybe more kids will learn to love playing sports and be on track for a healthier lifestyle.